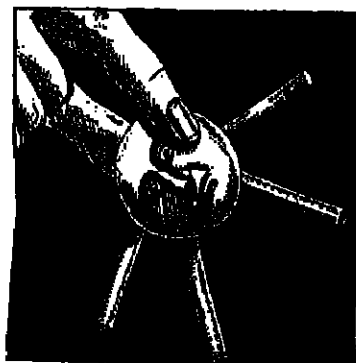


Wars of the Roses: the now rather middle-aged new universities of the 1960s are struggling to maintain their identity and purpose in the very different 1980s. Ngaio Crequer reports from LANCASTER (page 10) and Kathleen Jones describes changing student attitudes at YORK (page 13)

The legacy of the Raj: John O'Leary reports on new efforts to create order from the chaos of universities and colleges in INDIA and concludes that the British inheritance may be an obstacle to reform (page 11)

WOMEN in research: Janet Humphreys argues that the financial difficulties which universities face should not be used as an excuse to postpone investment in maternity and nursery services which might help them to hang on to their best researchers (page 14)

With the COLD WAR in deeper freeze than ever Paul Wilkinson argues that our objective should not simply to survive the balance of terror but to overcome the nationalist tribalism that is at the root of war (page 15)



What sort of people should there be? Peter Medawar reviews a new study of the social and ethical dilemmas created by new developments in BIOTECHNOLOGY and behavioural science (page 16)

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The George Orwell archive
Survey of local authority
Topping-up New books in
European studies

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In defence of the CNAA

The Council for National Academic Awards is going through a bad patch. In the last six months it has suffered several setbacks. First, the National Advisory Body attacked rather lightly the weight to the CNAA's advice in the first stages of its planning exercise last summer. Second, the critical report by HM Inspectorate on the Polytechnic of North London's sociology and applied social studies departments appeared to contradict the CNAA's own reapproval of the two degrees only months before. Third, the council's decision to rank town and country planning courses in three divisions of quality to help the NAB's rationalization effort raised a storm of controversy. Fourth, the slow progress towards implementing the "Partnership in Validation" initiative which is intended to set the institutions free has led to renewed suspicion that the CNAA does not seriously intend to abandon or devolve its tight control over degree courses in polytechnics and colleges.

The consequences for the CNAA have been serious. One admittedly pessimistic interpretation could be that the council has been shown to exercise remarkably little influence over the NAB's planning process but that its attempt to do so, in the case of town planning, involved a serious breach of trust with institutions; that the PNL episode has tarnished its previously sparkling image as the guardian of high academic standards in the non-university sector; and that it has once more demonstrated its imperialist rigidity by its reluctance to come to terms with the growing maturity of most polytechnics and a few colleges.

Expressed in such gloomy and unfair terms these criticisms add up to a formidable indictment of the CNAA, one which appears to justify Dr Peter Knight's rhetorical call for an insurrection against the council. But it is certainly an exaggerated and probably a false indictment for three reasons.

The first is that the criticisms now being made of the CNAA are contradictory rather than complementary. Some argue that the CNAA failed to inject considerations of quality into the NAB's planning exercise, which as a result was essentially a mechanistic, number-crunching operation; others object to the fact that the CNAA got involved at all and even those who do not take up such a fundamentalist position in principle in practice deny the council the right to take the only action that would be effective, the ranking of courses in terms of quality. It does seem a little dishonest to complain on the one hand that the NAB's decisions are not informed by academic and quality judgments, and on the other hand to object to the only

practical course to remedy this state of affairs.

There is a similar conflict between two other criticisms of the CNAA. Some (Sir Keith Joseph?) may now have doubts about the ability of the council to guarantee high academic standards after the PNL affair. Why did the CNAA's procedures not identify the alleged shortcomings which so disturbed the visiting inspectors? But others complain that the CNAA is reluctant to concede to institutions the greater degree of academic independence to which they are now fully entitled. Again it is difficult to have it both ways. Either the CNAA should establish tougher checks on standards or it should allow institutions greater freedom. It is difficult to see how it can do both at the same time.

The second reason is that disapproval of the present policies of the CNAA tends to be most intense at the highest level in institutions, among directors, principals, and other managers. Among ordinary lecturers resentment of the CNAA is much more muted, partly because they see the council as a handy ally in arguments with their institutions about resource and academic policy, partly because the CNAA is an academic rather than a managerial agency so it is not surprising that academics appreciate its value more than managers. Students of course love the CNAA because its validation procedures give students an opportunity to express their own views, another reason perhaps why the CNAA is not smiled on by institutional managers.

The third reason, the record and potential of the CNAA, is the most persuasive of all. Despite occasional niceties like the PNL affair there can be no real doubt that the CNAA has been very successful in maintaining the credibility of degrees in polytechnics and colleges. It is sometimes argued that the new universities were able to maintain the credibility of their degrees without external validation from their very start so that the new polytechnics could have done very well without the support of the CNAA. But this conclusion ignores the important differences: the build-up from higher diploma to ordinary and honours degrees required in many polytechnic departments, the new vocational subjects in which degrees had never been awarded before, the comparative poverty of resources, the different qualifications of academic staff, the more critical climate of opinion towards higher education in the 1970s. But the council has not only been able to underwrite high standards, it has also encouraged polytechnics and colleges to pay attention to the organization and teaching of degree

courses, which in many cases makes them superior of their university equivalents in these respects. Another cliché in the non-university sector is that some university courses would not be approved by the CNAA - which says something about the standing of the council as well as of university degrees in the eyes of polytechnic and college lecturers.

The future potential of the council is more ambiguous. It does seem reluctant to share its responsibilities. As a result "Partnership in Validation" is sometimes seen as an attempt to postpone genuine partnerships and to extend the period of tutelage. Probably the experimental arrangement between the CNAA and Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic which tries to integrate the council's and the polytechnic's own procedures for the approval and re-approval of courses should already have been established as the standard relationship between the council and most polytechnics (and even a few colleges). At times too the CNAA does seem over-anxious to play the high politics game that is only peripheral to its proper role as an academic agency.

However, the CNAA has a good record on encouraging innovation in degrees. It also provides perhaps the only forum in British higher education where the content and organization of undergraduate courses can be kept under constant and knowledgeable review. One reason why the universities have failed to reform their undergraduate courses may be that they lack the institutional focus for such reform. Any downgrading of the CNAA would create the same vacuum in the polytechnic and college sector. Finally the pressure will grow for more sustained scrutiny of standards in higher education. We may never get as far as Leverhulme's academic review body in the universities but that is certainly the direction of future change. So if there must be scrutiny it seems best to leave it to a body like the CNAA that is part of the fabric of the non-university sector rather than risk the creation of some entirely new, external, and oppressive agency.

There may be a lot wrong with the CNAA, but there is more that is right. It would be sad if the setbacks of the last six months led to any long-term deterioration in its standing in higher education. The council undertakes a delicate but absolutely essential job of quality control, but it does so by a process that is open and understood. It can also act as an agent of real change - not the superficial administrative change represented in successive NAB plans, but fundamental academic change on which the vitality of higher education so absolutely depends.

The morals of genes

A seven-year experiment in regulation of scientific research will end next month when the Genetic Manipulation Advisory Group is dissolved. To be replaced by a new body, the Committee of the Health and Safety Executive. The change will be uncontroversial, in contrast to the atmosphere when the then Secretary of State for Education and Science Mrs Shirley Williams set up GMAQ in 1976, to oversee work using the new techniques for cutting and splicing the genetic material.

The shift of responsibilities to the HSE marks an effective compromise that the potential hazards of manipulating genes between organisms are less threatening than first thought. And both industry and trade unions support the incorporation of genetic manipulation in the familiar tripartite framework of the HSE, even though some scientists have voiced doubts about the executive's microbiological expertise.

But while the metamorphosis of GMAQ into the Health and Safety Commission is being celebrated, the safety angle, the new committee's home will ensure that its terms of reference are forever confined to technical questions of hazard.

In truth, GMAQ was never intended as a forum for debate on the wider issues raised by advances in the genetic manipulation of organisms. With the practice rather than the purpose of genetic manipulation, however, there is a suspicion that the original intention was that the group should be broadened to consider the possible social consequences of genetic manipulation, accelerated its transfer to the HSE.

Now, while the wider issues remain, it is unclear who should take them up. The discussion of the general implications of advances in control over reproduction and genetic engineering channelled into GMAQ was set up quickly containing minor arguments in the laboratory. But we will await the equally detailed debate over the other issues of public concern.

Sir Peter Medawar, writing in our column last week, suggests that a new body for public concerns should be set up. The House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, which is currently considering the need for a new body for public concerns, is also looking at the possibility of a new body for public concerns.

people prepared to tackle the grand questions - what sort of people should there be, as Jonathan Glover asks in the book Sir Peter refers to. And GMAQ and its successor will take care of the fine grain of discussion on safety measures.

In between, there are legal, psychological, sociological and moral questions of more immediate import. Reports from the United States indicate that the first serious attempts at gene therapy for one particularly distressing inherited disease will take place later this year. In a different part of the same landscape, test-tube babies researchers are already canvassing views on surrogate motherhood, and embryo donation when the law still struggles to cope with a technique as well-established as artificial insemination by donor.

There is work for academics in a whole range of disciplines in clarifying the problems which attend new techniques. But it is not only for academics. The House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology, which is currently considering the need for a new body for public concerns, is also looking at the possibility of a new body for public concerns.

Laurie Taylor



NEW FEATURE

U.G.C. LETTER ADVICE COLUMN

Every week a well-known academic will answer letters from individuals, departments, faculties or universities, on matters relating to The U.G.C. Letter. This week a well-known academic from the West Country.

Hello there!

Yes indeed. Well, we've had quite a postbag already and it was difficult to know where to start. But after some anguishing I chose the queries relating to the first part of QUESTION SIX. Which subject do you expect to become more popular... over the next decade?

Doctor P.L. of Leicester University writes: "We're all at our wit's end here over this question. Help!" while Professor T.W.D. of Stirling says, "Please, please, some advice on Question Six. This has really got us all stumped up here north of the border," and a letter signed by the entire department of Philosophical Archaeology at Keele complains, "We're used to digging pretty deep in this department but we just can't get to the bottom of this one."

Well, no wonder there are some worries. QUESTION SIX is a very tricky one. Supporting for a start we take it at face value. Which subject do you actually expect will become more popular? Your answer might then be Electronics or Computer Science. But of course this is only a starting point. Unless you are in Electronics or Computer Science yourself this answer may simply allow the UGC to increase resources for those subjects at your expense.

Perhaps then, one might mention one's own subject instead (there are, of course, always enough available criteria to back up any such claim). Choose from: Actual Number of Applications averaged over any time period; improvements in A level scores; recent TV series devoted to the subject; special edition of THES etc. etc.)

BUT if your subject is not Electronics or Computer Science do you really want to tell Sir Keith or his assistant that it's going to be more "Popular", because this may be seen as breaching to take students away from Electronics and Computer Science and therefore be "Unpopular" with Sir Keith. It may then leave itself open - your subject, that is - to be accused of Marxist bias or integrated with the Drama Department at Loughborough.

It would seem then, on balance, that it is best to name any subject at all other than one's own, or Electronics and Computer Science. Although, I should say, that I do not go along with Professor P.W.R. of Aberystwyth's suggestion that we should all nominate Ecclesiastical History. This seems a little childish.

NEXT WEEK, QUESTION 8 (PART I)

"Do you think that this has happened in your institution?"
P.S. If Ms T. Blackstone of London would send me a SAE I'd be very pleased to deal with her problem in absolute confidence.

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Dennis Healey, politician, writer, painter and now musician plays the slow movement of Mozart's C minor piano sonata to raise funds for Sussex University's Gardner Centre. Mr Healey was one of more than 300 people who performed 40 different works by Mozart last week. The audience all clocked in and were asked to pay 2p per minute of their stay. The 12-hour event, held on the 228th anniversary of Mozart's birth lasted between £4,000 and £5,000.

V-Cs and UGC discuss radical funding plans

by Ngaio Crequer and Olga Wojtas

Radical changes in university funding, new ways of supporting research, and a broadening of the curricula were all explored last week at a summit meeting between vice chancellors and the University Grants Committee.

The two day meeting, the first time the Committee of Vice Chancellors and the UGC have held a joint full session, was part of the UGC's consultations in its great strategy debate. Debates were held on finance and student numbers, academic and research issues, and national/organizational issues.

Professor Michael Thompson, vice chancellor of the University of East Anglia, suggested that in research it was now more accurate to talk about triple funding, not dual funding.

The third element, after the UGC and the research councils, was money from charitable foundations, industry, Government departments etc. He said that in 1981/82 the £65m from this plus the £33m from research contracts exceeded the £106m given by the research councils.

There needed to be more independence. He suggested a model where the UGC received the research plans of the universities and the UGC subcommittees changed their nature and widened the range of bodies they took advice from.

Professor Brian Gowenlock, for the UGC, said there were problems with the dual funding system because of the growing number of "alpha" research projects that could not be funded. He said research had suffered most in the area of technical support, and departmental grant support. These should be "protected" rather than receive earmarked funds from the grant.

He was concerned there was an over-identification with centres of excellence, he preferred to concentrate on the bright person with the good idea. He wanted a system where there could be promotion and relegation. He warned against student choice being the arbiter for future direction.

Professor Peter Moore, of the UGC, raised some questions on student numbers, assuming optimistic demand.

continued on page 3

Natfhe leaders predict close vote over flat rate rise

by David Jobbins

A close vote is predicted in tomorrow's college lecturers' decision on whether to seek a flat rate pay rise in the coming salary negotiations.

Leaders of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, favour a simple percentage increase coupled with automatic transfer from the lowest salary scale. They detect strong support in some of the union's regions for a flat rate.

Polys and colleges lose local 'topping up' aid

by Karen Gold

Polytechnics and colleges whose budgets have been boosted in the past by their local education authorities will find them much less helpful in the future, a THES survey has revealed. Part of the reason is that local authorities have used the extra £20m negotiated by the National Advisory Body for the advanced further education pool as a windfall to reduce their own topping up contribution from the rates.

More than a third of 75 local education authorities asked about their topping up for next year, 1984/85, said that it would be at a lower level than the current year. At least six will go down to zero that year, while several others are aiming for zero either the following year or some time in the future.

Among the zero group at least three authorities who are major providers of advanced further education - Birmingham, Ealing and Hampshire - actually told the NAB early last year that they were going to top up their institutions considerably.

Birmingham said on the form sent to all authorities by the NAB secretariat at the start of its planning exercise for 1984/85 that it would top up by more than £700,000. Ealing predicted around £500,000 and Hampshire around £450,000.

All three authorities topped up much less than that in the current year. Ealing gave nothing above the advanced further education pool allocation, Hampshire £163,000 and Birmingham £350,000.

The situation may have arisen because of confusion over the NAB form. A spokesman for Hampshire County Council said the council had believed that allowing the polytechnic to retain surplus tuition fees amounted to "topping up".

The Committee of Directors of

Polytechnics and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education both said although they had expected the level of topping up to fall, the figures were worrying. A CDF spokesman said the committee would be concerned if the topping up was less than had been indicated to NAB, because that would affect the gross allocation to the polytechnic.

Mrs Janey Rees, education secretary of Natfhe, warned that although the reductions were understandable in the light of the squeeze on local authority spending, they would affect the local education authorities' commitment to higher education.

"Pressure on the system to take higher education out of the local authorities will be strengthened if the local authorities are not seen to be making a commitment" she said. "While we do appreciate the very great difficulties local authorities are under, it is very important for their own sakes that they are seen to be making a real commitment to the higher education in their area."

Cuts of £300,000 and above are quite common in the major providing authorities, although Bolton appears to be the only authority definitely cutting more than £500,000 (Lancashire may overtake it once the final figures are decided). It will be little consolation to North East London and Middlesex

Polytechnic that although they are losing over £500,000 each, their funding authorities split that sum three ways and are therefore less harsh than some.

Out of the 75 authorities, 44 said they intended to top up in 1984/85 and 27 said they would not. Six said they would increase their topping up. Twenty six said they would reduce it. The rest either had not even reached the stage of proposals or did not divide funding for their advanced and non-advanced work.

The proportion of their contribution to locally provided work varies enormously. Avon, with two major institutions - Bristol Polytechnic and Bath College of Higher Education - as well as smaller ones, pays for 15.9 per cent of the advanced work in the country, more than almost any other major authority. It was also one of the six to increase its topping up: from £2,300 to £2,750,000.

The only three major authorities to provide more of their local advanced work are Cheshire (27.8 per cent) even though they cut their topping up by £140,000, the Inner London Education Authority, with 19.8 per cent and Northamptonshire with 19 per cent.

Most authorities with polytechnics pay directly for between nothing and 6 per cent of their advanced work.

Details, page 16



Looking at the Sun, 15

Providers to resist MSC takeover

by Patricia Santinelli

Local authority associations were meeting this week to plan their resistance to the Government's proposals to transfer funds for non-advanced further education to the Manpower Services Commission.

Opposition to the plans is also being planned by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education and the National Association of Local Government Officers, which described the proposals as unconstitutional and undemocratic.

The Government's plans were announced this week in a White Paper Training for Jobs put forward jointly by the Departments of Education and Employment without prior consultation with local authorities. It intends to give the MSC some £200m by 1986/87, which will be deducted from the Rate Support Grant, to spend on work-

related non-advanced further education.

The White Paper contains an implicit criticism of local authorities and their colleges for not providing courses sufficiently geared to the needs of employers. In future the MSC will control a quarter of all non-advanced further education without introducing any "new money" in the system.

Currently the MSC spends some £90m financing such courses - by 1985/86 this will rise to £155m. Total expenditure on work-related non-advanced further education is around £800m at present.

The White Paper virtually turns the MSC into a national training and further education body and has left it to the commission to decide what kind of courses to support. But it adds that it expects the MSC to give priority to courses in electronics and robotics as well as to business studies provision

and training for further education teachers.

The Association of County Councils considers the White Paper as a consultative document. It was meeting this week to hear the views of its Conservative and Labour members whom an ACC official described as "hopping mad".

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which was holding its quarterly meeting this week, said it would resist the decision with all the political means available. It also deplored the lack of consultation.

There will be no change in Scotland from the present system of funding non-advanced further education through the Rate Support Grant.

Training for Jobs: HMSO £2.25

Leader, back page

Letters to the editor

Department reputations as market images

Sir, — How many heads of department have the opportunity, time, expertise or inclination to assess either the process or output of many other departments, let alone a significant proportion of 60 or more departments, in a way which is other than impressionistic? You should be looking to the exploration of market images for an analogy for your "peer reviews" (THES, January 20) rather than to the quality control of processes or quality assurance of products.

Where other indicators are confused or lacking, the price demanded is often treated as the main indicator of quality. The A level scores may be regarded as the price paid for entry and so reflect entrants' images of courses. In this

case, the price demanded is a worse guide to quality than usual for two main reasons. First, the coinage is bad; repeated investigations both within and across courses and institutions have demonstrated that A level scores are very poor predictors of future performance. Secondly, even if A level scores were good indicators of intellectual ability, this is only one of many talents that we should be taking into account when selecting students for "vocational" courses if we expect claims to vocationalism to be taken seriously.

While much is said publicly about the support given to teaching by research, we are not also privately aware of the potential threat to teaching

posed by over-indulgence in research? For business and management, at least, your definition of research is unacceptably narrow. For example, good professional practice is often a far better support to teaching in this area than publication of papers. Further, the "reputation" (image) of the professor and proposing institution counts for much in decisions about applications for research grants.

Thus, you are left with major methodological and conceptual difficulties. 1. You are gathering images, or reflections of images, not facts.

2. You are exploring different ways of gathering the same set of images rather than gathering independent pieces of evidence which lead to the same

conclusions. 3. You have assumed, without evidence, that the same criteria should apply to all areas of higher education and that these criteria are, or should be, supported by all within it. 4. You are assuming that those who choose to answer your questionnaire are a representative sample rather than a group of those who happen to share your values.

I trust you will accept this as an expression of my unease which you invited when you sent me your questionnaire. Yours faithfully, M. H. J. WEBB, Department of Business Studies, Manchester Polytechnic.

Conflicting attitudes

Sir, — In his letter (THES, January 27), H. G. Jones complains of the lack of attention from academics to the Henley Centre's work on social attitudes over the past 10 years. He thinks it unlikely that anyone could be unaware of the dataset since it "has been extensively chronicled in such newspapers as *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Financial Times*". He goes on to query the need for the Social and Community Planning Research's new annual study of social attitudes.

The fact is that the Henley study is not, and apparently never has been, publicly available. It is, I understand, like Taylor-Nelson's Monitor, a private study with access restricted to those who can afford to "buy in". No criticism is implied, since I believe that neither of these studies is supported by public or foundation funds.

The SCPR's new study was set up with precisely the opposite intention. For instance, a book to be published by Gower every spring (starting this year) will record each year's results and include extensive tabulations; the hardback edition will also include a microfiche containing over 200 tables; the fully documented dataset will simultaneously be lodged in the Economic and Social Research Council data archive at Essex. The data were never intended to be private SCPR property, and they will be available as a resource for all to use as they wish.

I must confess that our literature search was confined to published papers and books; it excluded national newspapers and private files. It did not reveal the Henley Centre's work. That does not suggest there are no references, but it may help to explain why Henley has had so few requests for access from potential academic users. Now, in view of Dr Jones' assurance that requests "would, in general, have been favourably received", our request has duly been submitted. Judging from the number of inquiries we have already received about the SCPR's data, I suspect that similar requests are already on their way to Dr Jones.

My only criticism of Dr Jones is for his unfortunate suggestion that the Nuffield Foundation and the ESRC (and, by implication, the Monnet Trust and others) have somehow been negligent in agreeing to support this new study. In view of the fact that for 10 years the Henley Centre has been using data that could have been valuable and widely used resource within the social science community, I find his charge of implied wastefulness somewhat inappropriate.

In any case, Dr Jones should know that there is room for more than one (or more than two) projects on such (or more or less) important subjects. I do not see our project as "competing" with his or with anyone else's. Yours faithfully, ROGER JOWELL, Social and Community Planning Research.

Two in three

Sir, — Why is Professor Burge so anxious to discredit my editorial? To suggest that I am "not a serious student" is a little like suggesting that I am not a serious student of the subject. It is a little like suggesting that I am not a serious student of the subject. It is a little like suggesting that I am not a serious student of the subject.

Those departments of English which do not run such courses should perhaps consider doing so (though I am well aware that this is not the moment to suggest the creation of new courses in English universities), not only for educational reasons (foreign students benefit incalculably from a period in England), but also for economic reasons (foreign currency must surely be welcome).

Yours sincerely, MARGARET CLAYTON, Department of English, Geneva University.

Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday evening. They should be as concise as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and to delete any material which is defamatory, libellous, obscene, abusive, or otherwise unsuitable. Letters are not returned.

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Government keen to stay with CERN

by Jon Turney

Science Correspondent
Government objections may prevent the Advisory Board for the Research Councils from considering withdrawal from the European Nuclear Research Centre (CERN) in its proposed review of particle physics.

The ABRC's intention to launch the inquiry became known just before Christmas, after a year when the CERN subscription had put great pressure on the marginal money in the science budget. It was then said that the inquiry would include examination of the case for continued membership of the Geneva centre and would report in the first half of 1984.

However, two months of inter-departmental discussion have failed to agree terms of reference for the inquiry. Although the idea of a review has been approved by the Prime

Minister, the Department of Education and Science has had to sound out other departments because of the wider implications of withdrawing from the CERN agreement.

Although the agreement provides for withdrawal by any member after a full year's notice — an option exercised by Spain in the late 1960s — this is scarcely a political possibility for Britain.

This country is heavily committed to the centre scientifically as well as financially and British researchers played a prominent role in shaping plans for the next major instrument to be built there, the Large Electron Positron ring (LEP).

Government sources will only say that it is vital to set up the inquiry in a way which does not alarm the other CERN partners and that its terms of reference must exclude outcomes

which would be unacceptable. But it is clear that even raising the question of withdrawal from such a successful collaborative venture would sour European relations when the UK is in the midst of budget wrangles with the EEC.

In addition, the Department of Trade and Industry had recently become interested in the prospects for winning engineering contracts from the CERN. It has set up a task force chaired by Mr Roy Trowbridge, a former technical director of Plessey, to help firms tendering for work at the CERN.

Officials of the Science and Engineering Research Council, which is now to be party to the proposed review against the ABRC's original intention, believe the whole exercise is now in doubt.

The DES asked the council to offer

draft terms of reference and suggestions for members of the review panel last year. But the SERC says there has been no word on the subject from the department since then.

If they are prevented from asking the big question, the ABRC will still press ahead with a review of the long-term position of particle physics, focusing on the role Britain plays within the CERN and likely developments in Geneva toward the end of the century. This would look at what should follow the LEP now under construction.

But if the review's terms of reference are framed with this constraint, they will not satisfy physicists in other fields, who are increasingly prone to argue that the SERC's £27m annual contribution to the CERN is a burden carried by researchers in the rest of physics.

Derbyshire, NELP in jobs blow

Preliminary redundancy notices went out this week at North East London Polytechnic and Derbyshire College of Higher Education as a result of governors' and local authority meetings on both institutions.

At NELP, 100 to 120 jobs are to go out of a total of around 630 staff. At Derbyshire, it was 42 to 52 posts out of about 360 staff from the two colleges — Derby Lonsdale and Matlock — which were merged to become Derbyshire CHE last September.

Staff and students at NELP lobbied the governors' meeting at which the polytechnic director Mr Gerry Fowler's financial report, including the proposed redundancies, was approved.

Representatives of the three local education authorities responsible for NELP — Barking, Newham and Waltham Forest — met the evening after the governors' recommendation to start the redundancy procedure, and to set up a special working party to look at how Mr Fowler's predicted £2m plus shortfall could be saved in other ways.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education at NELP has demanded a meeting with the governors and the joint education committee, who also agreed that no steps apart from the preliminary notices should be taken towards redundancy until a governors' working party has reported and the unions been consulted.

At Derbyshire the governors have agreed to close one of the college's five sites — the Uttoxeter New Road site in Derby — as well as redundancies in order to save a total of £1,012,000 by 1985.

The two merged colleges have already totalled around 90 voluntary severance agreements in recent years.

Funding changes discussed

continued from front page
He thought it unlikely that universities would be able to attract large scale non-government cash, except by raising tuition fees for students not paid for by the public purse.

But even if the universities could attract substantial free funds, he thought Government would be unable to resist taking it into account when fixing recurrent grant. And so would the UGC.

Two things would be inevitable, a move towards a grant per place concept, or the research floor element separated and allocated separately.

Professor Randolph Quirk, vice-chancellor of London University, argued strongly the need for a distinct university sector although he insisted on the need for functional variation.

But trans-binary cooperation was important and systems of credit transfer should be devised to encourage student mobility. There should be regional links between institutions and their home-based computer student should be encouraged.

He said that universities have been too formidably between the

Minister indulges in some shadow boxing

The minister responsible for higher education met the shadow spokesman in open debate for the first time outside the House of Commons last weekend. Both returned to familiar themes, one claiming that the polytechnics had strayed from their original remit, the other finding deficiencies in the grants system.

But all was not as it seemed; perhaps the two men were disorientated by their move from Westminster, the presence of an audience of student politicians or the threat of extra-parliamentary intervention by the Social Democratic Party.

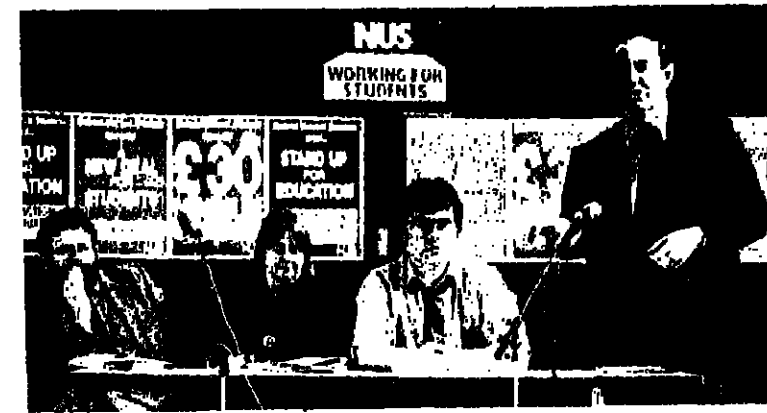
Mr Peter Brooke, the under-secretary, was to be heard conceding that there was illogicality in the grants system, while Mr Andrew Bennett, his opposite number for Labour, was castigating the polytechnics.

Not that Mr Brooke was dodging his responsibilities. Indeed, he even admitted family guilt for the root of successive generations of students' problems since his father, as Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1962, set the level of grant which is still used as a yardstick.

Mr Bennett, not surprisingly, was more supportive of the students' case for reforms, especially for the abolition of the parental contribution to grants.

However, although he declared himself in favour of education for its own sake, he had doubts about the direction the polytechnics had taken. "Polytechnics were supposed to be different institutions serving different needs in their communities," he said. "It seems to me that too many of the polys are trying to copy the universities in every way."

Mrs Ann Sofer, who spoke for the Alliance, wanted instead to narrow the gap between the universities and the public sector. She was also in favour of higher spending on grants



From left, Andrew Bennett MP, Anne Sofer, Neil Stewart and Peter Brooke on the platform at the NUS education conference.

Grant worry as OU is told to 'increase efficiency'

The bewildered Open University tried to elicit this week from higher education minister Mr Peter Brooke, why it had been singled out for particularly harsh treatment over the next three years.

The annual graduate jamboree took on a sombre note when Dr John Horlock, the vice-chancellor, said the OU would be forced to examine its whole system of teaching in the light of the indicated grant levels.

The treatment, he said, took on account of inflation, the saving already achieved in the undergraduate programme to mathematics, science and technology, and the massive increase in the continuing education programme together with the OU's commitment to remain the University of the Second Chance.

The university's grant is to be held at about £59m over the next three years. Inevitably some services for students would suffer, said Dr Horlock. "The problem is that if we pull out any one of the teaching bricks we must be sure the

whole edifice doesn't fall down". It already costs students £2,000 to study for an ordinary degree so increasing the fees has been ruled out.

Mr Brooke said it was the university and the new OU visiting committee set up by the Secretary of State for Education and Science to undertake a reappraisal of its activities to meet these targets through increased efficiency, in some areas, and alternative methods in others. "Reductions in activity levels" might be required.

"When we look to the future the prospect is necessarily not one of continued growth and expansion on all fronts. The university consumes a large amount of public funds..." and it was the Government's policy to restrain public expenditure.

He wanted to see it meeting the challenge of cable television and the growth in home videos both in its teaching methods and in developing new teaching courses. Retraining was another area where he wanted to see the OU expanding its ambitions.

Merger blueprint drawn up

by Ngau Crequer

A blueprint for how the Government sees mergers between universities and polytechnics is contained in advice from the Department of Education and Science to City University.

City University has agreed to consider the feasibility of a merger with City Polytechnic after the letter from the DES, one from the Inner London Education Authority. A paper from its vice-chancellor, Dr Raoul Franklin, was considered last week by the senate working party on planning. It is a reversal of the academic policy committee's decision last month which held there were no academic grounds for the merger to proceed.

The DES letter, from Mr John Thompson, undersecretary, says that a merger would greatly strengthen the prospects of the two institutions, whose separate future might be less certain.

He saw the new institution as a chartered university, though differing in many respects from a traditional university, which would bestow its own degrees, funded on the advice of both the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body.

Funding would reflect the history of the new university and its inherited wider work. "The ILEA would have a direct funding responsibility because of the continuation of non-advanced further education work," the letter said.

The university senate was meeting this week to discuss developments and there was likely to be a move to slow things down.

Mr Neil Fletcher, chairman of the ILEA's further and higher education sub-committee, said that the implication in the DES letter that the authority would fund only the non-advanced work in the new institution was not the ILEA's idea of how the merger would work.



"I WAS PUT ON SWEET CIGARETTES..."

Future life

Sir, — In his review of *What Sort of People Should There Be?* Sir Peter Medawar, with characteristic wit, separates Jonathan Glover's science fiction from his sound sense about possible futures for human life (THES, January 27). Then Medawar embarks on "a fanciful adventure of his own". He seems clear why we cannot genetically engineer behaviour and yet he succumbs to the even less plausible dream but chemically or physically locatable bits of the brain might control bits of human activity or experience.

To take his examples, E. S. Valenstein disproved psychologically specific hypothalamic areas 15 years ago. Several psychological neuro-scientists refuted the "satiation centre" a decade past. Hypothalamic obesity arises rather from gut and hormone abnormalities. The psychologically naive "fixes" for obesity (and for more serious disorders) by drugs or brain surgery have been condemned by the scientists whose results they misuse.

Medawar and Glover also seem curiously pessimistic, for compatriots of Relth and Sinclair, about the educative potential of the fifth or sixth generation of machines if we truly domesticate and civilize them and so enrich rather than reduce our culture. DAVID BOOTH, Department of Psychology, University of Birmingham.

Hard facts

Sir, — In his article on the Metropolitan Police (THES, January 13) Banton claimed that police officers in London "are harder, further removed from the public, and more likely to have an adversarial conception of their force versus sections of the public". He presents no evidence to support this claim (indeed, none exists) and although my evaluation (for The Police Foundation) of the Met's recruitment training programme in "human awareness" is only 18 months into its schedule, it is very likely that officers now getting towards the end of their two-year probationary period will substantially resist the negative effects of the "canteen culture" to which he refers. Furthermore, the very positive response there has been to the 1983 book *Psychology for Police Officers* suggests that there is a very effective wind of change sweeping through even those parts of the Met. Banton claims (secondhand) to have knowledge of Yours sincerely, RAY BULL, North East London Polytechnic.

The rivals

Sir, — When my department is visited by the council's agents for quality control, we are receiving people who are not only our judges but our rivals, or maybe even our friends. In either case what does this say about objectivity? Your leader is too sanguine. The Council for National Academic Awards must start to fade from the scene. Yours truly, H. MARI CURRIE, Professor and Head of Department, University of Birmingham.



The Bhagwan arriving in the USA

Orange quibble

Sir, — Normally I would not quibble about a review of a book of mine, but in Bryan Wilson's review of *Life as Laughter: following Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh* (THES, January 20) I feel obliged to. I could take him to task over a number of issues but instead I will restrict myself to a couple of observations.

To begin with, Mr Wilson and I exchanged unpleasantnesses concerning the nature of the sociological enterprise a few years ago (in the columns of another weekly) and thus he should have known better than to review a book of mine. I'm sure such an eminent scholar as Mr Wilson has not had a lapse of memory, and accordingly my suspicion has been aroused. It is not the actual review of the book that concerns me, rather it is his pontificating about the nature of sociology.

Essentially I object to his remarks about my "unsavoury" frankness, the suggestion that my work may be "unserious" and that sociology possibly could do without my contribu-

English abroad

Sir, — Every year I am asked by students here if there are opportunities for them to study English literature for one or two terms in a department in an English university. This year the number of requests has increased considerably. I have, therefore, decided to write to you in order first to draw attention to what seems to be an increasing demand in Europe; second, to lament the inadequacy of information about what is available for foreign students in England.

Though not an unimportant department in a major European university we have not received any information about short courses for students of English (apart, that is, from the summer schools). After haphazard enquiries I discovered two such courses, at Exeter and Nottingham. I would very much like to know if there are any others. Perhaps those responsible could send me information directly at the above address?

Those departments of English which do not run such courses should perhaps consider doing so (though I am well aware that this is not the moment to suggest the creation of new courses in English universities), not only for educational reasons (foreign students benefit incalculably from a period in England), but also for economic reasons (foreign currency must surely be welcome).

Yours sincerely, MARGARET CLAYTON, Department of English, Geneva University.

Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday evening. They should be as concise as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and to delete any material which is defamatory, libellous, obscene, abusive, or otherwise unsuitable. Letters are not returned.

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ICMA OFFERS RESEARCH CASH

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants invites applications for research funds to consider the following subjects:

- Application of specific management accounting techniques to particular circumstances, e.g. to examine the belief that disaggregation of capital employed to lower management levels leads to improved use of resources.
- The effective use of management accounting in the control processes of private and public sector organisations, e.g. the extent to which performance indicators influence managerial control.

The researcher may propose any appropriate methodology, and may offer (a) or (b) or (a) and (b) together.

Preliminary outline proposals should include:

- proposed hypotheses to be tested,
- suggested methodology,
- a phased timescale,
- approximate funding required,
- the form of the proposed output of the study,
- a curriculum vitae.

The ICMA is unlikely to wish to incur in any one year more than £10,000, which may include the cost of research assistance. The project life is not restricted to two years in the first instance.

Please apply to arrive by 31st March 1984, to: Bernard Cox, Technical Director Research, ICMA, 43 Portland Place, London W1M 4AB. (and

received five to 10 complaints.

DON'S DIARY

MONDAY

I wake at the crack of a Californian dawn to greet a clear (smog-less) Los Angeles morning. Fortunately, I am one of the few Angelenos who actually walk to work, so the daily freeway traffic jam presents no problem (and I breathe a sigh of relief as the local radio reports two overturned trucks and a three-mile tail back beyond my nearest intersection). However, freedom from commuting requires residence near "fraternity row" whose loud weekend partying accounts for my bleary-eyed march towards the UCLA campus. I aim to reach the geography department by 8am. I long ago gave up trying to match the truly early start of my American colleagues, who appear to begin the day sometime during the night. Nevertheless, this morning does require my prompt arrival, since I have 120 mid-term examinations to grade before my class on Tuesday.

Unfortunately, I cannot bring myself to administer the more easily marked multiple choice tests, so there's nothing for it but to muster the troops (my two long-suffering teaching assistants) and begin to tackle the mountain of blue writing books piled upon my desk.

TUESDAY

Having returned the examinations, I cannot decide whether the undergraduates or the professor will lose most sleep over the marks (the latter, I suspect). My "office hour" is swamped by below-average students trying to bargain for a higher grade; and by above-average prodigies seeking advice on their course papers. I spend about two hours comforting the distraught, cajoling the lazy, and solving the problems of the world with the more serious contingent of my introductory cultural, geography course. At 1.30, I creep grudgingly down to the faculty centre for a light lunch (cheap salad all year round in this land of sand and sun). By 3pm I have finished preparing for my weekly graduate seminar, and I launch eagerly into definitions of culture and discussions on the roots of racism, fully absorbing the designated three hours until my voice gives out and four patient students succumb to the globs of plaster caused by an over-active air conditioning unit.

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday is reserved for my own research and writing. On arriving at the office, however, I am confronted by a "freight train" slouching a blue book in the hand and a damp handkerchief in the other. Well, perhaps a store of eight and a half out of sixty does merit my attention, even on a non-teaching day! By 9.30, though, I am engrossed in writing an overdue paper of my own. I progress for fully 15 minutes before a teaching assistant comes in to check the details of this week's discussion section; I stop again ten minutes later when an excited colleague comes in to try out his latest theory of community on me. We talk for the next hour (well, my paper is about North American pragmatism, so flexibility seems natural), and adjourn for coffee to consider our conclusions. The post (late again) brings two papers to be refereed, three letters requiring an urgent reply, and a bill from the faculty centre (salads don't seem so cheap after all...). Paper-writing is postponed until the afternoon, and

hour of which is wasted chasing up references in the library, and recalling books from other magic-like text collectors. By 3pm, pragmatism has secured my undivided attention. Time passes quickly, darkness falls across a cloudless sky, and squirrels scurrying among fallen leaves as I walk home across campus towards the university "village" of Westwood.

THURSDAY

I arrive to give a morning lecture on the diffusion of architectural styles, armed with a tray full of my most prized slides. Unfortunately, a technical fault makes it impossible to turn off the lights in the lecture room. The great pyramid of Gizeh and the flying buttresses of Notre Dame do not seem so spectacular in the cold light of day, and my carefully prepared speech makes little impression. I console myself with thoughts of a newly-established series of "brown bag" (luncheon) discussions, and spend a happy hour with graduate students and other faculty debating the relationship between social and physical science. Such speculation is brought to an abrupt end by the demands of a three-hour faculty meeting at which we discuss student entrants, faculty promotions and the prospects for teaching summer school around the Olympic games.

FRIDAY

The campus has already caught "Olympic fever". Some sports facilities are closed for refurbishing, new buildings have sprung up, paths are being repaved. Olympic mugs, post cards, T-shirts, badges, stickers, banners, scarves and assorted other trinkets have appeared in the students' store. Temporary summer jobs are being filled; local apartment rentals are put onto limited leases as landlords prepare to profit from unsuspecting short-stay holiday makers. The turnover of businesses in Westwood is astonishing. French cafes, pizza huts and wine bars are springing up at every corner. Pedicabs (propelled by a seemingly endless supply of out-of-pocket fitness fanatics) cruise the streets in search of customers who are tired of the traditional Friday and Saturday night Westwood "walkabout". While businesses and institutions prepare for a massive influx of tourists, my impression is that many local residents have equally elaborate plans to leave for Europe and watch the excitement on television.

SATURDAY

Yet another phase of the busy ten-week quarter has passed. Saturdays are reserved for shopping (by car, since the nearest supermarket is three miles away, and the corner store is obsolete in most of West Los Angeles); for finishing any work outstanding from the previous week (which usually takes most of Saturday and Sunday); and for miscellaneous errands. This week I have a class on earthquake safety which I attend, give again marvelling at our audacity in building our fragile urban environment upon one of the world's greatest natural hazards. Perhaps we take comfort in the fact that more damage occurs annually due to landslides, coastal slumping and brushfire than from earthquakes? I make a mental note (again) to buy candles, store water and learn where to turn off the gas. Then, like the rest of Los Angeles, I forget my worries over a glass of wine, the sound of waves breaking along the Pacific shoreline, and the peaceful security of a warm Californian sunset.

Susan Smith

The author is visiting assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. She was formerly junior research fellow at St. Peter's College, Oxford.

No guarantees, says Brooke

by Patricia Santinelli

Voluntary colleges could not be guaranteed a secure future and neither could maintained establishments, Mr Peter Brooke, under secretary of state for higher education, told MPs last week.

Speaking during an adjournment debate on teacher training in the House of Commons, Mr Brooke said it would be irresponsible to make such a commitment when there were several factors to take into account when planning national provision.

He denied that the Government was actively seeking to weaken the voluntary colleges' contribution to teacher education. Indeed he recognized that the system would be much poorer without such a contribution.

"But I am sure many committed

Christians will agree that the Church colleges cannot be exempt from the adjustments that the rest of the system has to make to match national developments. We shall however give all concerned the opportunity to comment," he said.

But Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour MP for Kingston Hill North, who led the debate, argued that the tradition of consultations with the churches had been abandoned.

"In 1982 consultations took place after the publication of the Secretary of State's proposals and never before, almost like the situation at GCHQ, Cheltenham," Mr McNamara said.

Mr McNamara added that the lack of consultation over the Catholics' historic share of teacher training places which has been reduced from around nine to eight per cent and the closure of

teacher education at De la Salle College, Manchester, had raised fears about their own treatment in other denominational colleges.

It was not sufficient for Mr Brooke to reply that the value of the colleges was profound. What was needed was an unequivocal statement about the Government's attitude to the future of voluntary colleges and their historic share, he added.

Mr Brooke replied that the whole conception of the historic share was based on a misunderstanding. There had never been an agreement about a fixed share of places.

He admitted that the voluntary colleges as part of the public sector had suffered a major cut in secondary training, but this had been more than made up by an increase in primary training.

Council criticizes NAB data

The National Advisory Body's conclusions that the participation rate for both full and part-time courses will fall and that the present system is too large are strongly criticized by the Business and Technician Education Council this week.

The pessimistic use of demographic statistics together with the apparent and unquestioning acceptance that the local authority higher education system is too large need to be questioned," the BTEC says in its response to the NAB's strategy for the late 1980s and beyond.

The council believes that the participation rate for both full-time courses and for the recurrent part-time continuing education of adults who need to retrain will rise significantly.

The BTEC argues that the NAB is not sufficiently aware of the large participation rate from the professional classes and the reservoir to be tapped among the blue collar classes.

It accepts the need for rationalization leading to a more effective use of resources but points to the need to meet the rapidly changing requirements of industry and commerce, particularly in technological areas.

The BTEC stresses that its own growing market is not sufficiently recognized by the NAB. In 1982/83 it had some 54,000 students registered on first-year higher level courses. This was only 10,000 less than those registered with the Council for National Academic Awards.

The council also questions the myths created by the notion of "full-time equivalent students". It points out that there has not been a sufficient attempt to reflect the effort and cost of providing colleges facilities for part-time students in the ratios that determine full-time equivalence.

The BTEC argues that the NAB should be investigating the vast number of other advanced courses, validated by the BTEC or the CNA, which are associated with the lower levels of professional bodies and/or other trade associations' examinations.

It also calls for a reduction in the number of ordinary degree courses and wants more students to take vocational diplomas, although it favours retaining three-year degrees.

The council also wants to see a thorough re-evaluation of the current fee structure and student funding which it believes is unnecessarily complex and expensive to administer.



Students from Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds, this week mounted the first production in the college's new theatre complex. The governors spent £350,000 on the 360-seat theatre and £800 was found to put on *Oh What a Lovely War*.

Borders region to look at plan for amalgamated college

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish correspondent

Borders Regional Council has taken the first step towards setting up a new regional further education college, "second to none in the country".

The council's education committee has backed a proposal from the director of education, Mr James McLean to form a borders college amalgamating the five further education centres already in the region. The proposal will now go to a full council meeting at the end of February.

Mr McLean presented a report from a working party set up last February which said it had heard many compelling reasons in favour of the lower borders college, and no sound educational arguments against it.

The new college, it added, "could provide a blueprint for the best system of further education in Britain".

Mr McLean said there are inevitable changes over space resources, says the working party report, and since no single body is responsible for developing further education throughout the borders, some areas have been neglected.

Students from outlying areas are "seriously disadvantaged, as hours of

travel wear out all but the most able and dedicated," and the region finds it increasingly difficult to pay for transport costs.

Under a new college, Mr McLean suggests, further education units could be set up in secondary schools in towns which currently have no provision.

The Scottish Office 16 to 18 action plan implies that schools and further education colleges will have to work more closely together, says Mr McLean, and it will be easier to achieve cooperation and harmonization with one college.

The new colleges will have one principal, and the working party opposes deputies being appointed for each of the present colleges. They suggest the appointment of assistant principals who would be responsible for particular subject areas throughout the region.

The director appears confident that the amalgamation can be achieved without compulsory redundancies, and the working party members say they would not support any plan which jeopardized salaries or conditions of service.

Mr McLean added that one college would create a better promotions structure.

Research councils may become stablemates

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The Economic and Social and Agriculture and Food Research Councils are considering whether to move out of London, may opt instead to share the same London address.

The ESRC accommodation officer has already surveyed areas left vacant last year when the Schools Council vacated offices in the building which houses the ESRC in Great Portland Street, London. However, none of the alternative locations shows any significant financial saving, and the council is likely to decide that the current situation is the best.

possible move to Swindon, home of the Natural Environment and Science and Engineering Research Councils. This option, recommended in Lord Rothschild's report on the SSRC in 1982, is held to be too expensive as it would mean new construction work.

This presents complications as the ESRC itself is still considering possible new headquarters sites outside London, following its own review last year. However, none of the alternative locations shows any significant financial saving, and the council is likely to decide that the current situation is the best.

Street at its meeting in April. If so, the ESRC will plan to move into the vacant offices beneath the AFRC by this time next year. This will be part of a reshuffle of locations also involving the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

The board's staff numbers are expanding and they now consider the empty offices in Great Portland Street, London, too small for their needs. Instead the board will probably move into the ESRC premises offices in Great Portland Street, London.

Literacy chances unequal

by Felicity Jones

Unequal provision of basic skills adult education around the country has been highlighted by the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit.

An editorial in the unit's newsletter says that in some areas a reasonably comprehensive service exists based on the provision of a wide range of learning opportunities and paid staff support.

But in other parts of the country providers are struggling against few financial resources and a lack of real commitment by the authority.

A brief *THESE* survey confirmed a wide disparity between authorities. Many authorities only provide a 36 week year of tuition, charge fees to working students and have no overall coordinator for the basic skills provision.

But some authorities like Sunderland have a full-time coordinator who arranges regular six weekly publicity campaigns through the local media to draw attention to the literacy and numeracy classes.

Mr John Docherty, the adult basic education organizer, said that basic skills had been one of the priorities of the authority since 1976 in an area with high unemployment rate. No fees are charged and during the day classes are small and informal with a "drop-in" facility.

Nottinghamshire has a continuous teaching year and also charges no fees. There are 10 part-time area organizers and the authority is hoping to include money for a full-time coordinator in next year's budget.

It is still not uncommon, says ALBSU, for adult literacy groups to be expected to use junior school desks and chairs but the unit recognizes that for many authorities to develop their provision initial assistance will be required.

A checklist of possible areas of development from which authorities would choose for partnership work with ALBSU is on the cards if the unit's life is extended by the Government beyond 1985.

It is one of the unit's major concerns that in the future all authorities' basic skills provision contains certain ingredients. Director Mr Alan Wells said: "We do not believe that where some one lives should so crucially affect the opportunity to improve literacy and numeracy skills".



Trent director is appointed

The new director of Trent Polytechnic is to be Professor John O'Neill, (above) who has been deputy director there since 1976 and acting director since September 1982. Dr Ernest Freeman, his predecessor, took early retirement at the beginning of this year following absence due to ill health.

Professor O'Neill (59), whose original subject was naval architecture, came to Trent from Middlesex Polytechnic where he was assistant director after Enfield College of Technology where he was principal. He has been taken over by the polytechnic.

The same thing happened four years previously when he was director of Waltham Forest Technical College and school of art, which became a constituent college of the North East London Polytechnic.

Countdown to Japanese space mission

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The Science and Engineering Research Council is moving toward final approval for a joint space mission with Japanese researchers. The mission, the first concrete product of an understanding reached by the council's chairman, Professor John Kingman, in October 1982, could open the way to wider cooperation with the country emerging as a scientific rival to Europe and the United States.

The space mission, which has reached the stage where engineering models of the proposed detectors will be sent to Tokyo's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science in April, is a marriage between British prowess in X-ray astronomy and

Japan's successful satellite launcher. The mission, known as Astro C, will send up a "large area counter" X-ray detector developed by Leicester University and the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory.

The model detector now going to Japan is the fruit of the second phase of the project to be approved by the SERC. The council will now have to decide whether to go ahead with the construction of the flight instrument. If so, it will secure minor partner status in a notably cheap mission—the launch cost in Japan is estimated at under £15m, much less than a comparable satellite launched in Europe.

Final approval for the mission, which should be launched in 1987, will cement the understanding reached in 1982, when Professor Kingman signed

an *ade memorie* in Tokyo after wide-ranging discussions with Japanese scientists. The informal agreement on collaboration also extends to possible work in biotechnology—where the Japanese are anxious to strengthen their skills in fine genetic manipulation—molecular science and medical engineering.

There will also be scope for further joint missions in the developing Japanese space programme. The SERC is particularly anxious to forge overseas links in areas like this where new projects demand large capital expenditures, to relieve pressure on domestic budgets for small research grants.

The moves toward stronger scientific collaboration with Japan go alongside a stronger official UK interest in

the way Japanese science policy works. The working party recently set up by the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development to examine ways of spotting promising new areas of research has taken a special interest in technology forecasting in Japanese government.

One notable omission in the list of areas for research collaboration is advanced computer research. Although the Japanese have invited other countries to seek cooperation on work connected with their "fifth generation" computer project, there have been no takers so far. However, the directors of Britain's own Alvey programme for computer research do not rule out collaboration here as work develops in both countries.

£2,741 for student in 'repeat' row

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

The Scottish Education Department is to pay £2,741 compensation to a student who had not realized she was ineligible for a grant to repeat a year.

The student complained to the ombudsman, Sir Cecil Clothier, that the SED had refused her a grant for the final year of a higher national diploma course at short notice and without prior warning.

The student had had a grant for the first year of a social sciences degree, but left at the end of the year to take a job. She later applied for a grant for a two year secretarial studies HND at a college of technology, but had to repeat a year.

The SED told her on September 9 1982, that she would not receive a grant for the session 1982/83. The department told Sir Cecil that if a student had had an award for not more than a year of a course, a grant was given for only the minimum length of a new course.

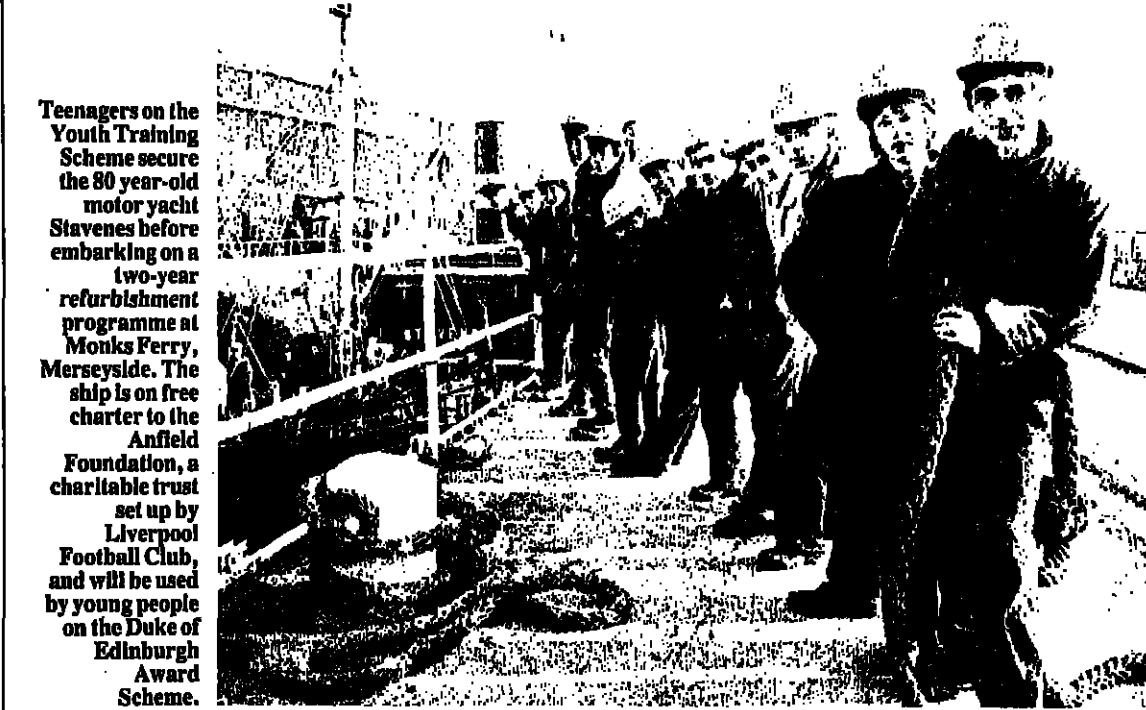
But Sir Cecil found that SED had failed to send the student a warning letter explaining this, although this was the department's usual practice.

The student had misunderstood the SED's guide on allowances which said a grant for a second course would be for its minimum length if the student had "transferred" after one year of another course.

Sir Cecil said the guide "left some room for misunderstanding", and added that it was unfortunate the guide was less definitive than internal SED instructions.

The student said her course organizer had told her that if the college had known there could be difficulty with a grant, they might well not have asked her to repeat her first year.

Sir Cecil proposed the SED should give her compensation covering the year's grant and fees, and also urged the department to revise the guide.



Councils try to reverse YTS swing

Local authority associations will attempt to get proposed cuts in the Youth Training Scheme and a swing towards employer-based provision reversed at a meeting with education and employment ministers later this month.

Both the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities have already made it clear to the Government that they strongly object to the substantial cuts being planned in next year's YTS provision.

The MSC plans are for a reduction in Mode B1 provision (run by voluntary agencies) to a maximum of 70,000 from 80,000 and in Mode B2 (run by local authorities) from 20,000 to 10,000. Mode A provision (employer-based) would be increased from 300,000 to 360,000.

The AMA told Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary in a letter last week that it regarded the swing to-

wards Mode A as extremely undesirable. It argued that this was not because Mode A was *per se* unsuitable but because employers would tend to reject certain youngsters and take on only those who would have obtained jobs anyway.

The association added that it was also concerned about the geographical incidence of employment, and unemployment and training opportunities. In some areas there were simply not enough employers to sponsor Mode A. It should also be noted that recruitment to these schemes had not been particularly good. The shortfall in trainees had already created serious difficulties for its authorities and their colleges.

This view is shared by the Youth Training Board of the MSC which last month refused to agree to a cut in Mode B1 provision and referred the matter to MSC commissioners who met last week.

The commissioners have now asked Mr David Young, MSC chairman to write to Mr King expressing their concern about cuts in Mode B1 provision and the fact that it will be difficult to meet the Christmas undertaking if there are not enough places on these schemes.

Mr Young said last week that there were only 4,300 youngsters awaiting an offer of a place on YTS, out of whom 1,800 had been interviewed. There are now some 218,546 youngsters on Mode A courses, 71,232 on Mode B1 and 23,242 on Mode B2. In all cases this is much lower than the number of places approved, which is above 400,000. This figure is however well below the target of 460,000.

People on the Youth Training Scheme were allowed to put their views to MPs this week, after employment minister Mr Peter Morrison, who recently opposed any political activity by trainees, gave his approval.

Hostel subsidy increased

The Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority is increasing its subsidy to more than 3,000 college and polytechnic students living in its residential accommodation.

Charges for hostel accommodation are to rise by just 4 per cent for 1984/85, the authority's further and higher education and finance sub-committees have recommended.

The proposal would add almost £550,000 to the authority's non-poolable expenditure in a full year and runs contrary to the advice from ILFA officers that charges should rise by up to 17 per cent.

The FHE sub-committee last week considered four options. One would have raised charges by 24 per cent plus 5 per cent for inflation, reducing the operational deficit to nil. A second, favoured by officers, was for a 12 per cent plus 5 per cent increase, reducing the deficit on running costs to about £229,700 in the 1984/85 academic year.

A third allowed only for an increase to meet an inflation rate of 5 per cent, which would have the effect of leaving the deficit at the same level in real terms as in the present year—about £623,000.

The final option, chosen by the FHE sub-committee and endorsed this week

by the finance committee, was to raise charges in line with the 4 per cent rise in the main rate of grant. Officers estimate this would slightly increase the operational deficit to an estimated £647,500.

Officers argued that even after an increase of 12 per cent, its accommodation represented good value for money, and would still be competitive.

The increases, which still have to be formally confirmed by the authority, mean that self-catering accommodation would rise from £17.90 to £18.90 a week compared with the full economic cost of between £27.62 and £47.58 depending on the hostel concerned.

For seven-day bed and breakfast accommodation, charges would rise from £24.10 to £26.70, against a full economic cost of at least £43.

ILFA provides about 1,700 places in five free-standing hostels and three colleges. A further 1,500 are in polytechnic halls of residence.

Officers pointed out that the accommodation was mainly occupied by students on advanced courses from outside the ILFA area who benefited from the current subsidy. The authority hopes to reduce the deficit by making maximum allowances round the cost of accommodation.

UWIST faces course changes

Senior senators at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology have recommended radical course changes in the run-up to the University Grants Committee's "strategy" debate.

The discussion document comes from a group of professors on the senate's policy committee. It will be considered by the senate on February 15, but already the proposals have provoked staff condemnation.

The proposals include ceasing to offer civil engineering, but to disperse staff to other disciplines; developing mechanical engineering and engineering production into a department centred on manufacturing engineering; and enhancing information technology and computer applications; encouraging a research role for mathematics; but in a smaller department, preferably engineering mathematics; bringing together business administration, accountancy, economics and banking to create a school of business; encouraging English to develop strengths in communication and information technology; and to develop a programme of post-qualification professional development.

The group say in its paper: "It is appropriate that consideration be

given to the desired academic structure of the institution over the next 5-10 years."

It has assumed that there will be no redundancies or enforced retirements among the UWIST staff, that activities relevant for the rest of the century should be developed and that full account must be taken of University Grants Committee constraints.

It noted the UGC "strategy" letter, the fact that the UGC was becoming more directive and that more cuts were likely. Although the majority of departments were "on a rising profile" there are, however, difficult issues which have to be addressed.

Civil engineering, it says, was highly regarded professionally and by employers with recognized strength in teaching and research. But there was inadequate accommodation and nationally 40 per cent of engineering places were unfilled.

The UGC would be unlikely to finance extra accommodation, so prompt and radical action was necessary to preserve the strengths of the department.

The department of maths was large but its functions were principally supervising teaching and research which was good but small for its size.

Wales spared from 5% cuts exercise

by Iola Smith

Welsh colleges have been spared a national planning exercise assuming a 5 per cent cut in their budgets for 1984/85.

The Wales Advisory Body asked the polytechnic and all colleges running advanced courses for their proposals to deal with both level funding and a 5 per cent cut. But the announcement of a slightly increased advanced further education pool for Wales has allowed the WAB to scrap the second part of the exercise.

Colleges had been reluctant to give a reaction to hypothetical cuts despite assurances that the responses were for use as an exercise only. There was relief when a quantum of £29.6m was announced, almost compensating for estimated inflation over the year.

Now, however, the WAB is faced with the problem of reconciling the proposals for level funding with its concern to safeguard academic standards. Although analysis of the responses is not due to be completed until the end of next month, it seems that the colleges are proposing a growth of about 30 per cent in student numbers compared with 1982/83.

A working group, which met this week, is examining the responses while officials liaise with the institutions to clarify their proposals. Although no sweeping cuts are expected to be contained in the WAB's final plan, some colleges may be asked to alter their priorities.

Analysis is being based on the

assumption that current financial controls will be continued while the number of 18-year-olds is decreasing. Therefore the group has proposed an increase in part-time courses and vocational courses (full and part-time) at sub-degree level rather than the development of non-vocational degree courses.

While duplication of courses should be avoided where possible, the group saw the importance of relating provision to local needs. WAB explains: "Courses which might be regarded as uncommensurate or otherwise inappropriate may be justified in colleges with extended rural/industrial catchment areas."

As well as encouraging cooperation with other higher education institutions including the universities, the working group recognized the value of work being done in the Polytechnic of Wales and the three specialist colleges: the Welsh College of Music and Drama, College of Librarianship and the Welsh Agricultural College.

The planning exercise also proposes to identify programmes of study. These will be groups of courses linked by a particular theme, for example management and business studies. The National Advisory Body has identified 14 programmes. WAB proposes 18. Two changes will result from the programme structure. Student numbers will be set on programmes rather than on a course basis and new courses will no longer have to be approved. Approval will be sought for new programmes only.

news in brief

Starting young in Liverpool

A new project has been set up by the University of Liverpool to encourage more local schoolchildren to go on to higher education. "Access in Merseyside" is aimed at inner city schoolchildren who finish their formal education at 16.

The aim will be to convince children for whom universities are outside their experience, that they can do just as well as others, and should be more ambitious about what they want to achieve. Initially the project will be aimed at improving links with the schools and children will be able to visit the university at an earlier stage in time to influence their choices.

Widow's gift

The widow of the former chancellor's assessor to Edinburgh University court has donated £250,000 to support the university's Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities. Mrs S. M. W. Gifford has made the bequest to commemorate her husband, Mr T. J. Carlyle Gifford.

Making contact

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals is to set up an industry advisory group as a forum for exchanging ideas and encouraging closer contact between industry and the universities. It will include representatives from universities, industry, merchant banks and commerce and will be chaired by Lord Flowers, chairman of the CVC.

Picked for post

Mr Ray Hadfield, former senior lecturer in management studies at Wolverhampton Polytechnic, has been appointed regional agent in the south-west for the Professional, Industrial and Commercial Updating (PICKUP) scheme.

Correction

Dr Barbara Meyer has taken voluntary severance from Dundee University's department of education and not retired as stated in *The Times* on January 6.

Polish cash

A local Polish firm has given Glasgow University £53,000 to endow a lectureship in Polish. The electrical firm, J. Stepek Ltd, run by Mr Jan Stepek and his family, first offered the endowment four years ago. The money was frozen when Glasgow suspended the teaching of Polish in protest after Dr Leszek Kukulski, a senior lecturer, was detained in Poland while on sabbatical. He later died of a heart attack while still there.

Observatory's future remains in balance

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The Royal Greenwich Observatory's future now depends on successful operation of the Science and Engineering Research Council's new telescopes on La Palma in the Canary Islands.

Although the observatory was granted a reprieve two weeks ago when the recommendations of a review panel under Professor Peter Willmore were approved by the SERC's astronomy, space and radio board, it still faces substantial staff losses.

When Professor John Kingman, the council chairman, visited the RGO site at Herstmonceux last week, he made it clear staff there must be seen to make a success of La Palma if the Greenwich Observatory was to have a long-term future.

In the meantime, the observatory faces the loss of around 25 of its 230 staff before April 1985 and further more modest losses stemming from the Willmore recommendations after that.

The Willmore panel's proposals will entail loss of 80 or so staff from the Greenwich and Edinburgh observatories run by the SERC and from the Rutherford-Appleton laboratory. These cuts are likely to fall most heavily on the RGO, where they will affect instrument programmes for

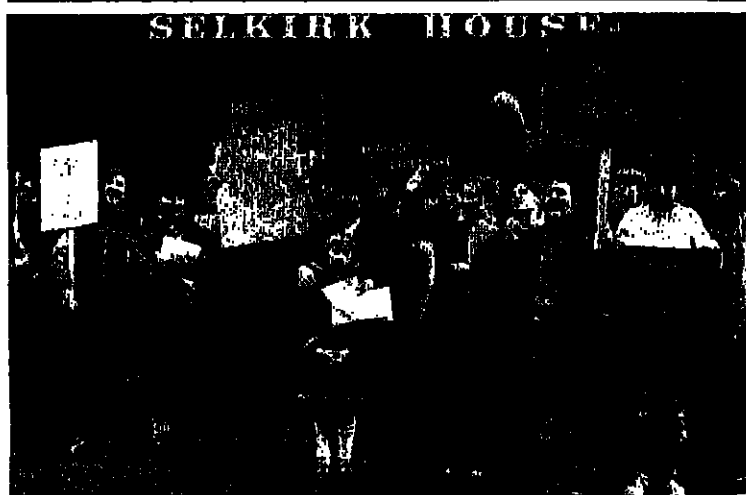
ground-based observation and administrative staff.

However, staff at the RGO will not feel the effect of this and round of cuts until after completion of preparations for operating the cluster of new telescopes at the La Palma site. The Willmore recommendations are designed to avoid any disruption of this programme, one of the SERC's largest capital developments. The Greenwich observatory will begin dealing with large numbers of researchers who want to book time on the La Palma instruments later this year.

Once La Palma is established later in the decade the astronomy, space and radio board's options will include much greater use of remote operation. The Royal Observatory in Edinburgh has been given main responsibility for developing techniques for this.

But expansion of remote operation would probably use the starlink communications network, which will remain based at the Rutherford laboratory, contrary to the Willmore panel's recommendation.

Senior staff at the RGO are also considering whether to seek one-off projects from other SERC boards after the main work for La Palma is completed. Professor Kingman said last week the council would not rule out this use of the Greenwich facilities.



Women protest over courses

Students and staff from London skillcentres welded paintbrushes and carpentry tools outside the headquarters of the Manpower Services Commission to demonstrate in support of taster courses for women which introduce them to a range of manual skills.

They were protesting over plans to shelve a proposed skillcentre at Lambeth which at one time was to run a women's course and creche. Just 3 per cent of trainees who pass through MSC skillcentres are women.

Inside, the commissioners agreed a strategy which would in effect involve a 20 per cent cut in income involving course closures and staff cuts in a realignment of skill centre policy

which will bring them into much closer competition with colleges.

The 87 skillcentres and annexes under the Skillcentre Training Agency will be asked to take immediate steps to attract new clients on a full-cost basis with greater emphasis on new technology.

This will involve local managers in selling the courses in a more aggressive fashion to local employers and colleges but Mr David Young, the chairman, did not expect the skillcentres to compete financially with colleges since he said college courses would be better subsidized.

The MSC is aiming to increase its income from course fees from £10m to £25m in two years.

216p and 199p in the £ respectively. As a result, industry in Sheffield is what is left of it - now pays £787 per employee compared with £255. The GLC has increased its rates by 118 per cent in two years.

At the heart of the constitutional case lies accountability. In Sheffield and Newcastle it means nothing. They flaunt the government because they know they can pass on the bill with impunity.

Only just over 20 per cent of a council's spending is paid by the ratepayers; only some 30 per cent of the local electorate pay full rates; and only a tiny number actually bother to vote.

Happily the moral has at last reached Labour Party headquarters - which are in Red Ted's Lambeth. Their rates bill, like that of many declining businesses has just shot up from £90,000 a year to £160,000. And they are having to cut their staff.

Keith Hampson

The author is Conservative MP for Leeds North West.

CET 'in difficult position'

by Patricia Santinelli

Essential work particularly in the new technologies is being threatened by reduced funding, the Council for Educational Technology warns this week in its annual report.

Mr Geoffrey Hubbard, director of the CET, says in the report's introduction that the council has so far managed to maintain its effectiveness with the reduced grant it received from the departments of education.

"But this process cannot go on. The pressure of technological change at the present time calls for more of the specialized contribution which the council is willing to make. This is not an extra. However the council can now only give more. If it is given more," Mr Hubbard says.

Mr Hubbard points out that the council is in a difficult position because it has been told that after reconsideration of the level of its funding depends upon the review of all non-departmental public bodies which the Government has now decided should take place every five years. The CET had been promised a review in 1983.

The lateness of the review has however given Mr Hubbard the opportunity to defend the council, its role and work, all aspects which are to be considered when the CET is officially examined.

Mr Hubbard points out that the council has been able to achieve its prime function of promoting and undertaking a development programme leading to innovation in education and training, just because it is an independent agency, responsible to a wide constituency.

"Successful development cannot be done as a result of pressure from one sector or another, or to meet short term political needs. It requires the judgment which springs from independence; the freedom to consider both longer term needs and potential," Mr Hubbard says.

On the question of the council's effectiveness, Mr Hubbard points out that the real question to be asked is whether a level of funding equivalent to 0.0005 per cent of the county's expenditure on education can be expected to produce effective innovation.

"That the council can list computers in education, open learning, applications of video, teleconferencing, copy-right and user specifications as activities which have had results far beyond their modest cost is support for our contention that our programme is effective. But this is now at risk because new demands not matched by a fall in existing programmes," he says.

He argues that no other organization could do the council's job as well or better because its present structure enables the CET to cover the whole country and the whole of education and training. This means that significant new developments can be identified and followed up rapidly.

Mr Hubbard adds that the loss of the council would be felt widely, not only by the Government but by education and training.

Professor and principal's public disagreement

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

A Strathclyde University professor has sharply criticized his principal's views on the privatization of the university system. Last November, principal Dr Graham Hills gave a public lecture on "Britain's educational future" - advocating "hardy independence" for the universities who should stop relying on Government funding.

Last week, in another public lecture with the same title, Professor Thomas Markus of Strathclyde's building science department, said the principal's tone of ferocious attack on the Government and University Grants Committee was paradoxical.

If the universities were successful in being funded by the private sector, they would achieve exactly the stated political programme of the present government.

No government willingly divested itself of power, argued Professor Markus, and Dr Hills' policy took effect

English history 'neglected'

by Paul Flather

The decline in the study of English history over the last 30 years by undergraduates preferring foreign and other specialist options is having disastrous consequences, Professor Geoffrey Elton, Cambridge University's new regius professor of modern history, warned last week.

Professor Elton was giving his inaugural lecture. He said that history undergraduates could now get by studying perhaps 50 years of English history and 100 years of European history by taking other course options.

"Our undergraduate trips lack all cohesion and it has no real understanding of what it is trying to do. The only thing for which it is really excellent is as training for those who go on to research," he said.

Before a packed lecture hall of more than 200 dons and students Professor Elton made a powerful plea for a return to the days when the future "servants of the state" at Cambridge studied the history of England with emphasis on its continuity and its length.

He is well known to a generation of

historians for his pioneering research on the Tudors, resulting in his famous book, *The Tudor Revolution*. His remarks gain extra significance coming after a call last year from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for education, for schoolchildren to be taught a "national curriculum" of shared values.

He criticized the way history options had "multiplied so recklessly that one comes to doubt whether any two undergraduates pursue the same course", and also the way pressure on historians to learn foreign languages had been relaxed over the years.

The trips at Cambridge was reformed 10 years ago so that students can now choose five out of 25 papers for the first part of the degree, and one out of 14 subjects and two out of 30 options for their second part.

The most popular papers in recent years have been on the expansion of Europe and American history. Professor Elton has long criticised the liberalization of the history tripos particularly new options relating to the Third World.

In his lecture he said such options "lacking a solid body of properly

criticised sources" reduce the "mind-training capacity" of history and also prevents students from watching and measuring developments over a real expanse of time.

"We cannot be doing right if we send people into the world who have graduated in history and have never been made to feel the length of it."

He noted how the current list of undergraduate dissertations related overwhelmingly to the past 150 years, with a high proportion looking at the 1930s and 1960s, which, he suggested, allowed "social studies to creep in by the backdoor."

Professor Elton made clear he thought specialization was a good thing as long as there was one real element of continuity. But English history had "lost all self-confidence" and was afraid of being condemned by critics as elitist, chauvinistic, or ethnocentric.

He outlined three stories of English history that used to be told - the constitutional story from Anglo-Saxon times, the growth of the empire, and England as the "mother" of industry. Britain's decline made it all the more interesting to study English history, he said.

Technology industry links up

The British Technology Group has appointed four regional representatives for a trial year to try to strengthen its links with academic institutions.

The four will each work three days a week in their region, publicizing the BTG's services in departments and looking for likely ideas with commercial possibilities. The BTG is anxious to maintain close links with universities and polytechnics after it loses its rights of first refusal over inventions developed with public funds.

The withdrawal of the BTG's rights was confirmed last year but will not take effect until new guidelines for protecting new ideas have been drawn up by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The group will decide whether to appoint more regional representatives next year when the fruits of the trial scheme have been reviewed. The university coordination division at the BTG headquarters in London will remain the first point of inquiry.

The four representatives appointed to start the scheme off are: Mr Maurice Cahlan in South-west England, covering Bath and Bristol universities, Bristol Polytechnic and the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology; Mr James Dury in Edinburgh, covering Edinburgh and Napier Universities; and Mr Stephen Smith in Manchester, covering Manchester and Salford universities, Manchester Polytechnic and the University of Manchester.

Mr Dury will also cover the University of Science and Technology; and Dr David Spilkins in the Midlands, covering Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic and the universities of Aston and Nottingham.

There are two characteristic features which differentiate public sector provision from that in the universities. First part-time higher education is much more extensive. In 1981 the proportion of part-time was 10.7 in the university sector and 47.3 in the public sector.

Moreover a significant proportion of part-time students are mature. The number of mature students entering full-time higher education has increased slightly in the recent years but the number entering part-time higher education has risen.

Traditional views of access and demand have centred on the 18-year-old age group and have focused primarily on the provision of three-year full-time degree courses. This is really no longer an adequate model with which to meet the needs of the rest of the century.

It is therefore imperative not only that the government revises the demographic projections for the 18-year-old age group set out in DES Report 99, but also in its revision takes account of the complex modes and patterns of provision that particularly the public sector provides.

As the NAB consultative document suggests, higher education can no longer be seen as a once-for-all, career-long, investment. There is plenty of evidence to indicate significant areas of unmet demand which are likely to increase.

The 18+ option is too easy for this system. Those of us who care about access to higher education must continue to press the case for change.

Jean Boccock

The author is assistant secretary higher education for the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.



Catering for a different clientele

According to *The Times* (January 20) the Department of Education and Science is changing its mind on projected student demand for higher education and will continue consultations over the next two or three months with a view to publishing revised projections by about Easter.

Interestingly the account in *The Times* is written entirely from a university perspective. It is not therefore clear whether the DES accepts the view that total student demand is not going to fall in line with the projections in the Report on Education No. 99 or whether the argument is entirely focused on the decline in the 18-year-old age group and the effect this might have on higher education.

In fact of course the assumptions on student numbers have been assailed on all sides. For example in the public sector this issue was raised by the National Advisory Body document *A Strategy for Local Authority Higher Education in the late 1980s and beyond*. Though we do not yet know what responses were made by institutions, one can guess a very large proportion will have challenged the assumptions in Education Report 99 which were discussed in that document.

Indeed the NAB itself stresses that the statistical basis of the projections are open to considerable doubt and the arguments about the differential fertility of social classes I and II, who have traditionally been the source of much of the demand for higher education, are by now too well known to need further rehearsal.

On the public sector side however some of the arguments are obscured by the lack of a clear statistical base covering the whole sector, which is both readily available and up-to-date.

There are two characteristic features which differentiate public sector provision from that in the universities. First part-time higher education is much more extensive. In 1981 the proportion of part-time was 10.7 in the university sector and 47.3 in the public sector.

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As the NAB consultative document suggests, higher education can no longer be seen as a once-for-all, career-long, investment. There is plenty of evidence to indicate significant areas of unmet demand which are likely to increase.

The 18+ option is too easy for this system. Those of us who care about access to higher education must continue to press the case for change.

False modesty did not prevent Jack Straw a few weeks ago from attributing the complexities of the rate support grant to "some of the best brains in the country". He is, of course, one of them - a special adviser to two Secretaries of State for the Environment in the last Labour government.

Some time has elapsed since then, so perhaps he has forgotten - or does not want to remember - what used to happen under the old system. Whether those in local government are the "best brains" is open to conjecture; but the various elements comprising the grant formula are devised objectively as possible by what working parties of central and local government, using information supplied by local authorities. Above all, they are backed there is an open debate each year on the relative weightings.

Under the old RSG system, the computer whirled and that was it. Nor is the new system used in a more politically partisan way than the old. Ministers have always had levers to alter the balance of the distribution. Labour massively swung resources away from the white counties and into the inner cities.

Now, however, the WAB is faced with the problem of reconciling the proposals for level funding with its concern to safeguard academic standards. Although analysis of the responses is not due to be completed until the end of next month, it seems that the colleges are proposing a growth of about 30 per cent in student numbers compared with 1982/83.

PARTY LINE

Altering the balance of distribution

Man areas and London. They argued they were assisting not through why should Jack Straw and others ignore the fact that there are more cities (for example Bristol, Leicester and Southampton) in the shire counties than in the metropolitan areas?

The charge that the new system is corrupt is laughable, but are we being dictatorial? At the very time Jack Straw was working in the Department of the Environment, ministers were telling local government, in that immortal phrase of Tony Crosland's, "the party is over". £50m was then topped off local authority spending in mid-year.

Not only has central government always sought to control council spending - because it amounts to a quarter of public expenditure, over

half of which is paid directly by central government - but they have a perfect constitutional right to do so. We live in a unitary state and local mandates cannot supersede national policy.

That is of course what many Labour councils argue they have the right to do - and that is why Parliament is now having to take away some of the powers it had delegated.

Eighteen councils last year made not the slightest effort to cut their spending in line with government requests. They spent, indeed, 7 per cent more in real terms. They traded on the good will of the rest of the country, the 454 local authorities kept their spending up, or close, to the target.

Newcastle is spending 31 per cent more, Sheffield 26 per cent and first prize goes to South Yorkshire

are over 70 per cent beyond their target. The social and economic problems of these areas are recognized. Many are designated as inner city partnerships. But they are also down right profligate and make no attempt to match the efficiency of others.

Stopping this abuse is not dictatorship. Dictatorship from the centre could emerge if whole services were switched to government departments, as Neil Kinnock wants to see in education. But within spending limits, councils will be free to operate as they like.

If ever there were an intellectual dishonest argument it is that spending in Manchester and Newcastle has "gone up less fast" than other areas. Of course it has, but the fact is that Newcastle and Manchester have already the highest property taxes in the land.

overseas news

Industry's record handout

from E. Patrick McQuaid
CAMBRIDGE

American industry contributed a record 1.3 billion to education during 1982 despite a 32 per cent drop in corporate profits from the previous year. An additional \$220m in corporate gifts represents a 20.4 per cent increase, says the Council for Financial Aid to Education, which has been charting corporate support for academics since 1950.

A vice president with the council, Mr Arthur Kammerman, speculated that figures for last year will not reflect as high an increase in corporate support, though profits are likely to become healthier.

Also coming in as a first for 1982 was a 0.74 per cent increase in corporate support based on income before taxes. Larger gifts coupled with smaller profits were responsible. The figure for 1981 was only 0.48 per cent of the income given to education before taxes.

Overall, corporate giving hit \$2.95 billion during 1982, an increase of 13.4 per cent. Education received the largest share - 40.7 per cent. Coming in second at 31 per cent of the total was health and human services, with civic activities and art and cultural projects each at just over 11 per cent. Of all donations to education, all but 4 per cent was for higher education.

Roughly a quarter of education gifts went for departmental and research grants - up 19 per cent from 1980. Material gifts, such as computer hardware or other corporate products were encouraged by 1981 tax law revisions and accounted for 11 per cent of the total awards.

During more profitable times, corporations established foundations and endowments but disbursed less than 100 per cent of their parental allocations. During the past three years, however, foundations have paid out more than their allowances, drawing on reserve funds from healthier years, such as 1975, said the council report.

Historically, unrestricted grants for operating costs have been high on the list of direct awards. In 1982, though, they were replaced by corporate matching gifts to colleges and universities. Capital grants captured 9.8 per cent while student aid got 4.9 per cent. In all, colleges and universities received \$330m in direct grants and indirectly through fund raising campaigns. That's 69.2 per cent of all corporate support for education. The remaining 30.8 per cent was shared by scholarship and fellowship programmes and donated to education-related organizations, ranging from elementary to pre-college.

Time is money

The rate of inflation in Poland is proving very difficult to estimate, since various government officials quote different criteria. Krakow University, however, has its own estimate. In January 1983, it received 220,000 zloty from Polish radio in payment for the daily time signal provided by its astronomical observatory. In 1982, last month it received the payment for 1982 620,000 zloty almost three times as much.

Don't bring politics into universities, says commission

India's University Grants Commission has called for a strict separation of politics and higher education. A report issued last month on the management of the seven central universities hints at a wide range of abuses, ranging from corruption among the responsible for building and provisioning universities to the hiring of strong-arm squads to disrupt examinations.

The availability of student support, ready to demonstrate for seemingly democratic or humane cases has proved "irresistible" to certain politicians, says the UGC. The deliberate nature of much campus po-

Students undergo old-fashioned remedy

Nearly two thirds of the first-year students at the University of California at Los Angeles and half the entering class at Stanford University last year had to take remedial writing courses.

A survey of 1,292 institutions shows that more and more colleges and universities are offering such courses because the most talented high school students produced today are not ready to do college-level work. The study by Mr John Rouche, an education professor and director of the Community College Leadership Programme at

the University of Texas, was delivered to the national adult literacy conference in Washington recently.

Professor Rouche attributes the lag in basic skills to deficits in the secondary schools. Most students he interviewed said they were not required to write more than two research papers during their entire high school careers.

"Colleges will be in the remedial business for the rest of the century unless major, structural reform

is enacted," he said. Through structured courses, counselling and placement, peer tutoring, student monitoring and administrative support, American colleges are making headway. "Colleges are documenting that students can be taught to do well," he added.

The survey is part of a forthcoming book from Harcourt Brace Jovanovich's media systems division in New York called *College responses to low-achieving students: a national survey*.

Guideline Bill is rewritten

from David Dickson

PARIS

The French government is having to rewrite controversial new rules for the election of the members of university administrative councils following a decision by the Constitutional Council that the rules it had previously been intending to introduce represent an unconstitutional infringement of the "independence of professors".

Under the previously-proposed rules, members of university councils would have been elected by a common ballot among all members of the university's teaching and research staff, from professors down to junior assistants. This effort to "democratize" the administration of universities was one of the more significant changes in the French higher education system contained in the new law passed by the French parliament in December and currently awaiting the signature of President François Mitterrand.

In a decision announced in Paris last Friday the Constitutional Council, whose nine members are appointed to keep a check on the actions of the legislative branch, refused to support the claim made to it by conservative members of both the National Assembly and the Senate that the whole law was in conflict with the constitution.

However it did agree that several individual provisions in the law were unconstitutional. Among these was the creation of the "single electoral college" which said the Constitutional Council would threaten the independence of professorial staff. Being less numerous than other ranks of university staff, there was a danger that professors would not obtain adequate support through an open ballot commensurate with their professional role and status in the university.

The council also expressed concern that, where judicial proceedings were involved, professors would as a result of the single balloting system find themselves being judged by a panel selected by representatives of all university teaching and research staff, and not merely those who might be considered their academic peers.

The council's decision has been received with satisfaction not merely by the ranks of the conservative opposition, which had fought a prolonged battle against the government's plans during the parliamentary debate last year, but also by many members of the academic community who had made it the single electoral college in one of the principal targets of their opposition to the plans.

For example Lawrence Schwartz, a professor of mathematics at the prestigious Ecole Polytechnique whose book *To Save The University* helped spark a major protest movement among senior academics when it was published last summer, had claimed that it would give trade unions, which tend to be dominated by more junior academic staff, an unprecedented degree of



M. Savary: defended his proposals

control over a university's affairs. Over 1000 university academics signed a full-page advertisement in *Le Monde* in December expressing their opposition to various parts of the bill, to which the parliament was about to give its second reading. They demanded in particular "that the representatives in the university councils of each category of teacher should be chosen only by those whom they are going to represent."

The Constitutional Council, created by General De Gaulle in 1958 and the majority of whose current members were nominated by the D'Estance government has now given its legal support to this demand. As an alternative it says that equal numbers of seats on the university councils, which are responsible for debating the major thrusts of university policy, should be given to representatives of full professors on the one hand, and representatives of the rest of the teaching and research staff on the other.

The council's decision has come as a major blow to the government, for whom the reform of the internal administrative structures of the universities through the creation of the single electoral college was intended to be a cornerstone of its efforts to bring about the radical reorganization of the whole university system.

Speaking at a national colloquium on the teaching of history in Marseilles the day after the decision, the French minister for National Education, M. Alain Savary, defended his proposed electoral system as being "one of the procedures which the parliamentary majority had introduced," and claimed that the council's act demonstrated "the place of politics in an apparently judicial decision".

The rejection of the procedure is particularly embarrassing to the government in the light of the fact that it was initially proposed by M. Savary largely to compensate some of the powerful university teachers' unions

for his refusal to accept their demands for the creation of a single professional category covering all teaching and research staff.

This attempt to curb the powers of what are often referred to as the university "mandarins" was, however, rejected by M. Savary in the autumn of 1982 in favour of the introduction of a less radical system in which the university community is divided into two distinct classes: professors and *maitres-assistants*.

M. Savary made a further concession to critics of his plans last summer, when he dropped a proposal that, like the administrative councils, the members of a university's scientific council should also be appointed in a university-wide ballot. In its place, Savary added an amendment to the bill under which the members of the research councils, which are responsible for overseeing research policy, should be appointed by a ballot held solely among professors and relatively senior research staff.

It is being pointed out that, if the government had pressed ahead with the unions' proposals for a single professional category, the council would not have been able to complain that its independence was being threatened by a single electoral grouping.

A statement issued by the major higher education union, the Syndicat National d'Education Supérieure, claimed that the concessions which the government has made under pressure from opponents of its plans, in the form of a last-minute amendment to its Bill, have merely encouraged its critics to increase the intensity of their efforts to undermine the whole initiative.

The militant National Association of Maitres-Assistants, which issued a statement describing the Constitutional Council's decision as a historical regression. The association has called on its members to refuse to cooperate with their professors as part of a renewed effort to convince the government to introduce a single class of university teacher.

The rejection of its plans for the reform of voting procedures is not likely to prevent the government from pressing ahead with its implementation of other parts of the Higher Education Law, which is still expected to come into force in October, and whose major goal - in addition to democratizing university structures - is to introduce a more professional content into undergraduate degree courses.

The rejection could, however, signal a period of renewed conflict between M. Savary and the more militant university teaching unions which, as their comments indicate, are becoming increasingly frustrated at the fact that, despite being among the strongest supporters of the Mitterrand government, few of their demands for the radical reform of the higher education system are now likely to be met.

Africans set up crime institute

Many African universities are to pool their research resources through a new regional institute for the prevention of crime, such as drug trafficking and the treatment of offenders.

The establishment of the institute was agreed at a regional conference in Addis Ababa attended by delegates representing more than 40 African governments. The institute may well be set up in Nigeria where the University of Benin is already developing Africa's first basic course for doctors on drug addiction.

An illicit trade in addictive Western drugs is flourishing in the expanding urban slums of the developing world. It has emerged as a principal public health problem directly contributing to violent crime.

The new institute will promote and coordinate research into preventive and control measures, enabling the continent to evolve a common approach to law enforcement as an integral element of diverse national development planning programmes. A similar regional institute serving Europe is based in Helsinki.

Categories of crime which have become increasingly worrying to African governments include drug addiction, bribery, corruption and the abuse of public funds. Among the counter measures cited at the Addis Ababa conference were widened educational and employment opportunities for the young, improved training for specialists and regional coordination of research.

The institute will enjoy the support of several specialist agencies of the United Nations concerned with health, education, labour and crime prevention.

The Ibadan University course on addiction is being developed in a three-year project supervised by the department of psychiatry, University of Benin Teaching Hospital. It will be sponsored by the UN fund for drug abuse control and the Canadian International Development Agency.

It will provide basic knowledge of psychoactive drugs and the medical, social and psychological problems associated with their abuse. The course is intended for general practitioners, psychiatrists and psychologists as well as pharmacists, social workers, nurses and occupational therapists.

The call for the establishment of the African institute was made in a resolution passed at a regional conference preparing for the seventh UN congress on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. The agreement follows an international conference of specialists held in Toronto in 1980 which sought ways to combat the illicit trade in western drugs which has evolved during the past two decades.

World Health Organization expert committee in Geneva called for intensified specialist training as well as improved and coordinated research in exposed regions such as Africa.

All the drugs involved in the illicit western exports affect the central nervous system. They include depressants such as phenobarbitone, a barbiturate, and methaqualone; stimulants such as amphetamines; and hallucinogens such as LSD and mescaline.

The UN's international narcotic control board emphasizes: "In most African countries, there is little or no medical need for such substances. Their influx is continuing because of a lack of trained personnel and control mechanisms. The situation is being exploited by the traffickers who also take advantage of the inadequate vigilance of some of the manufacturing countries."

overseas news

University law faces amendment

from Barbara von Ow

MUNICH

West Germany's university law, instituted as a federal framework for greater unity among the regional *Länder* in 1976, is set to be amended following the recommendations of an expert commission last week.

The 11-head commission had been set up by Dorothee Wilms, then education minister, last February to examine the effects of the present law and gather opinions of all groups concerned.

Rather than a total revision or abolition of the law, the commission recommends a set of "limited amendments", Werner Knopp, who headed the study, underlined. The proposals, praised as admirably balanced by the whole spectrum of the national press, correspond largely to those of the rectors' conference. This had pleaded

for minimal changes to preserve the recent "organizational peace" at German universities.

Sources said a draft amendment of the law was likely to be submitted before the end of the year. While most groups concerned have welcomed the commission's suggestions, the Social Democratic opposition party has said it will oppose any changes.

While comprehensive universities should be preserved where they existed, they could not remain the sole binding organizational model, the report stressed. Calling for shorter degree courses, it suggested a division into basic and postgraduate courses as well as an introduction of interim exams.

The principle of group representation had come to dominate the internal structure of German universities as a result of the present law, the commission said. Some *Länder* had extended

this principle, which gives professors, students, academic and non-academic assistants equal say in the decision-making panels, beyond the set limits, it noted.

The group principle alone was not sufficient to ensure a competent and effective self-administration. If applied by itself it led to a polarization of interest conflicts, paralysis and bureaucratic over-organization.

The commission therefore suggested complementing the group principle with a general principle of faculty representation. To this end all deans, as faculty speakers, should be given a seat and vote in the university senates and all professors a say in appointments and structural changes at their faculties, it recommended.

It also made a strong plea to reduce the proliferating number of faculties to a maximum of 15 to achieve greater integration and cooperation. While

universities should be headed by rectors as a rule, presidents, who do not necessarily belong to the university they govern, would remain a possible alternative.

In the research field, the commission called for more backing for so-called "third means" which should be regarded as equal to state means. Research with third means should not be dependent on official permission and researchers should have a right to choose their own assistants, it added.

The study also suggested wide-ranging changes in the personnel structure of universities. The division of assistants into one group concentrating on its academic qualification and another doing uncreative administrative services had proved unsuccessful.

There should again be assistants responsible for both fields, it proposed, backed by habilitated senior assistants.

Reagan backs down at Stanford

from Charlotte Beyers

PALO ALTO

President Ronald Reagan has agreed to build his library and museum on the Stanford campus with no guarantee that the university will approve the Reagan Centre for Public Affairs.

In a January 17 letter to the Stanford board of trustees, President William Kimball read a letter from presidential counsellor Edwin Meese noting that "the president still believes that a national centre for furthering the advanced study of public policy under the auspices of the Hoover Institution should be part of the presidential library complex."

The compromise was a major break in a four-month standoff between Reagan and Stanford over the \$65m library complex. It virtually ensures that the presidential papers will be housed on campus. The fate of the

proposed public affairs centre remains uncertain.

Until Monday, the White House was offering the library, museum and public affairs centre only as a package deal. Reagan officials insisted that the centre be run by the Hoover Institution, a well-known think tank with a conservative reputation.

Stanford insisted that the centre be controlled by its own professors who would help assure political neutrality and scholarly quality. The university would not take the library unless the White House agreed to its conditions on the public affairs centre.

In a letter to William Kimball, Edwin Meese suggested a compromise. He said that the centre could be established as an independent national foundation run by its own board of directors. In this way both Stanford and the Hoover would be released

from any administrative role.

Stanford president Donald Kennedy rejected the compromise. "The independent foundations located on campus are not associated with any doctrine or school of thought. The Reagan Centre would be set up on behalf of a public figure with a particular political philosophy. The more distinctive the philosophy, the more interesting the archives of an administration are likely to be to scholars," he said. He added: "By the same token, it becomes all the more important for the university to assure both the fact and appearances of political neutrality and those characteristics of academic excellence that the university's mode of governance is designed to ensure."

W. Glenn Campbell, Hoover director, said that an independent Ronald Reagan Foundation would ensure the highest scholarly standards.

Laval staff back to work

from Mark Gerson

TORONTO

A lock-out of non-academic staff that kept Laval University closed after the Christmas break has ended.

Defying their union executive's recommendation, the Quebec city institution's 1,800 administrative, technical, clerical and maintenance workers voted by a narrow margin to accept the university's latest contract offer.

The lock-out, believed to be Canadian higher education's first, delayed winter registration and the start of classes by a week.

The university is now considering extending the term or cancelling spring reading week in order to make up for the lost time. A prolonged dispute could have jeopardized the semester for Laval's 25,000 students.

Administration officials ordered the lock-out after the staff union refused to schedule a vote on the university's contract offer before the start of winter registration.

Fearing that a rejection of its offer would lead to a repeat of the disruptions that had plagued the institution during the autumn term, the university insisted that the dispute be settled before the new semester could begin.

Between October and December, university support staff across Quebec staged rotating one-day strikes to protest against logging contract talks. The legal walk-outs closed many services and cancelled classes in some institutions.

Collective agreements between non-academic workers and the province's universities expired in February last year.

The Laval agreement leaves only the University of Montreal to settle with its support staff. While negotiations have broken down, classes and support services at the Montreal institution continue to operate normally.



Simon: wants free choice

Student aid reforms advocated

from E. Patrick McQuaid

CAMBRIDGE, Mass

An influential member of the United States Congress says he will introduce legislation that would let student aid to the number of qualified applicants rather than the annual government ceiling.

Representative Paul Simon, an Illinois Democrat, chairs the House of Representatives post-secondary education subcommittee. He is also running for a seat in the Senate.

Mr Simon floated his multi-billion dollar scheme before an assembly of American college executives on his native turf recently, after a more radical draft of his proposal made the rounds among the Washington illuminati.

His plan would turn the Pell student aid grants into an entitlement programme which would cover 75 per cent of a student's tuition costs. This is a modification of his earlier proposal to cover 100 per cent of those expenses.

Under current regulations, Pell grants are restricted to 50 per cent of education costs. Private universities feared the greater application measure would encourage their clients to enrol at public institutions where direct education costs account for the bulk of student expenses. The Simon plan would increase the maximum Pell grant of \$1,900 to \$3,000 beginning in the fiscal year 1986.

The proposal is in mind for reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, which is due to expire until the close of fiscal year 1985. Mr Simon sees an election year as a ripe opportunity for his initiative.

Mr Simon further proposes lumping three other student aid programmes into "block grants". This would allocate money for the national direct student loans, supplemental grants and the state student incentive grants under one umbrella.

While an advocate of free choice Mr Simon has had to modify his original plans in line with political reality, as the official put it.

Reaction among higher education leaders is more cautious than support. The American Council on Education, says the plan goes in the right direction, but does not address the fundamental conflict between private and public institutions. It says that the plan is designed to put the legal

The David Thompson University Centre in Nelson, British Columbia, will close at the end of April, Jack Heinrich, the education minister has announced.

In a statement released earlier this month the minister said that it was "no longer possible to fund the centre with its limited enrolment and relatively high costs".

Located some 400 miles east of Vancouver in the province's sparsely populated interior, the university centre is jointly operated by Selkirk College and the University of Victoria. Both community college and university-level courses are offered at the Nelson campus.

The provincial government expects to save some \$2.7m by closing the 400-student centre, which is nationally known for its writing and rural education programmes. It was created in 1977 to replace Notre Dame University, closed earlier that year by the provincial government.

According to Dickson Melville, who works for the education minister, students caught in mid-course by the

closure will be able to transfer to a nearby campus of Selkirk College. Special funding will be available for students who must transfer to other institutions, he said.

But Donald Mitchell, department head for performing arts and academic courses at the centre, is worried that students forced to change courses will be ineligible for the financial aid. He has also expressed doubts about Selkirk College's ability to absorb the abandoned courses and students.

A student-initiated committee has recruited faculty and staff and has begun to campaign for the centre's survival. "While the government decision appears to be final, we're not going to sit and let it die without a fight," Mr Mitchell said.

The closing of the David Thompson University Centre comes in the midst of major cuts in education spending in British Columbia. Universities, for example, face a 6 per cent drop in funding next year. Financial problems had already caused the University of Victoria to reduce its operations in Nelson.

Death inquiry postponed

The court case on the death of Grzegorz Przemyski, the Warsaw school-leaver who died after a beating in police custody last May, and whose name has become a focus of discontent among students and young people, is due to open at the beginning of February. Recent moves by the authorities suggest, however, that they would like to see the trial postponed indefinitely.

During the last three weeks, there have been two major developments. The file on the case, which had been delivered to the Provincial Court on January 24, has been returned to the prosecutor's office so that "important new material" can be incorporated.

The lawyer, Maciej Bednarkiewicz, who was retained by Grzegorz's mother, Mrs Barbara Sadowka, has himself been arrested.

The arrest of Mr Bednarkiewicz, a prominent member of the Supreme Lawyers' Council, was carried out in a manner which some observers have judged to be designed to put the legal

profession firmly in its place - he was picked up at 7.00am on January 11 the day he was due to deliver an important address during a meeting between a group of lawyers and Cardinal Glemp.

Three of the charges against Mr Bednarkiewicz relate to his dealings with a "deserter" from the ZOMO riot police, identified only as Janusz B. The relationship between Janusz B. and Mr Bednarkiewicz, according to press spokesman Jerzy Urban "had nothing in common with the relationship between a client and a lawyer" but allegedly included hampering penal proceedings, incitement to steal public property (a police car radio) and incitement to reveal state secrets.

Mr Bednarkiewicz is also accused of attempting to bribe witnesses to testify that the police were responsible for Grzegorz's death.

Mr Urban felt that it was "doubtful" that the Przemyski trial could now start on time. After the indictment had been lodged with the court, new evidence had come to light, and the trial was being postponed.

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Some people might think that the latest Council for National Academic Awards letter to directors of polytechnics and colleges rings rather hollow. "Tell us what criteria you use in making quality judgments," it asks. "And here's a background paper on how we've already done it."

The council did it most noticeably in what is becoming known as "The Town Planning Episode": the ranking last autumn, after repeated requests from the National Advisory Body, of all 11 public sector town planning departments into three groups, allowing - though not necessarily intending - the NAB board simply to slice group three off the end.

But in fact the council's quality advice to NAB was much more extensive than that. Academically coded comments on institutions and courses, of the kind that are everyday currency in the University Grants Committee, were provided by CNAAs officers to the NAB board and secretariat throughout their deliberations on the 1984/85 planning exercise during the second half of last year.

The background papers sent with CNAAs chief officer Dr Edwin Kerr's letter to the directors make clear that quiet arrangements for CNAAs to see NAB proposals early on, and to advise on their impact on

The CNAAs side of the NAB story

institutions and courses - to supplement the broad geographical and statistical sweep of the NAB secretariat - plus those coded "of quality" comments, should have been a both substantial and sufficient input from CNAAs into the NAB exercise.

The last thing that the council wanted - or was prepared for, until a few weeks before it happened - was an explosive decision like the town planning one.

It happened, the papers make clear, because CNAAs did not get the advisory privileges it had expected. It felt rushed in seeking institutional opinions, cornered into the town planning ranking, and still dissatisfied with the academic implications of what the NAB committee and the Government eventually decided.

At the same time the papers argue that CNAAs had a very substantial effect on the outcome of the NAB exercise. They claim to have contributed towards the increase in the size of the pool, improving its distribution, protecting colleges and courses both before and after they submitted final academic plans to NAB, and calling successfully for the policy of "concentration" on large well-established

institutions which was introduced relatively late in the exercise. CNAAs had influence against the odds, the implication is: therefore next time, provided it still has the backing of its institutional partners, it can do even better.

The background paper starts with the position taken by the council in December 1982, to provide quality advice for NAB on three conditions: a) that (the council) would not wish to engage in any formal ranking of courses or institutions; b) that it would wish its advice to be "open" to the institutions concerned; c) that there would be some questions which it was unwilling or unable to answer.

The following month, January 1983, the NAB secretary John Bevan wrote to the council asking for help on factual questions, on strategic issues and on courses having "particular quality". The CNAAs agreed, stressing the need for "formal mechanisms" for the exchange of views - whether by officers only or members as well is not clear - and making the first of many requests for more time. In this case for the three week September consultative period.

After meetings with NAB in May and June, when the time extension was refused, the CNAAs set up its little group of officers who then dealt with NAB throughout the rest of the exercise. No other CNAAs officer was allowed to have contact with NAB; they, "mindful of the council's concern about ill-considered action" the paper says, were allowed to give advice in writing, which would nevertheless not commit the council and had to be within the conditions the council had agreed.

Between July and mid-August, those officers were consulted by NAB. According to the paper: "The questions asked were of the following kinds: a) a course is proposed for closure - what 'quality' comments can be made? There were very few of these; b) in a particular region the target for a particular programme exceeds the sum of the institutional 'bids' - how should the 'extra' students be divided among the programmes? No questions of this kind were asked about the London and south east region; c) questions relating to national reviews of provision (town planning and environmental health only). No questions were asked about pharmacy.

of rate-capping it has been forced by Government to cut £600,000 of its support for Humber College.

The other is the attitude taken by authorities such as Birmingham, Hampshire and Oxfordshire, who welcome the idea of their polytechnics "living within their means" and who have either cut out extra funding or created a plan to reduce it to nothing over a number of years.

Oxfordshire, for example, who saw its topping up of Oxford Polytechnic jump almost tenfold - from £125,000 in the late 1970s to £1,065,000 in 1981/82 - following the "capping" of the AFE pool, is now determined to bring its 1984/85 contribution of £666,000 down to under £500,000 for the following year and eventually to nothing.

The other reason frequently given by local authorities for reducing their topping up next year is that they eventually received more money from the National Advisory Body planning exercise than they had expected. Typically that was the case in counties making a large but relatively inexpensive - ie low unit cost - provision. Lancashire, for example, was emphatic that it was not cutting its provision, it simply had more money than it expected. Cornwall made the same point.

The political importance of topping up in times of local government financial stringency also became clear: whereas some authorities were quite content to let their education committees deal with their contributions, others like Leicestershire were postponing a decision for committees and working parties of the whole county council.

Most authorities are much clearer on their contributions to large institutions than to smaller ones. There is a multitude of systems: some authorities simply hand over the AFE pool allocation and leave it at that; others supplement it with payments for non-advanced work. Hampshire up to this year has kept all the pool allocation and simply paid its colleges what it thought fit for the work they did - sometimes more than the pool figure, sometimes less.

The confusion of advanced and non-advanced work is omnipresent: authorities with small amounts of advanced work in particular actually have no idea whether they top up or not because they do not keep the figures that way. Others still ignore the money they receive from the pool, because it is so much less than their contribution.

Whether the total amount of local authority topping up has decreased as drastically as the trend downwards is difficult to tell. According to the DES, the total top up in 1982/83 was about £54m roughly 10 per cent of the AFE pool that year.

The total in our survey shows that those 75 authorities, excluding the Inner London Education Authority, might be expected to top up by around £15m next year. (The ILEA figure brings it up to double that). On the whole, the authorities not included in our survey are the smaller ones, but even taking that £15m figure as three-quarters of the total (thereby £20m) that will be two years' inflation, an

"Questions of type (a) had been expected on a significant scale and questions of type (b) were unexpected," the paper continues. "In NAB officers rarely knew the course make-up of programmes."

"It also became clear that so central a check was being made on the accuracy of programme assignments, or on the more unfortunate incidents of programme classification. CNAAs officers found that the briefings about programme contents and relationships were as important as judgments."

In other words, the CNAAs found that the NAB, in its enormous task, was more than occasionally getting its facts wrong. That discovery was particularly worrying because, the papers make clear, the CNAAs was also having considerable difficulty gaining access to NAB data in order to check it.

The small group of CNAAs officers had asked early on for a breakdown of courses into part-time and full-time, degree and non-degree in order to advise the NAB. According to the CNAAs paper "It was agreed that data would be provided on an official only basis; though this agreement was not recorded formally an indication of the data to be provided was sent to CNAAs."

"The fact that the agreement was reached has not been disputed by the NAB. CNAAs officers did not ask about general statistical analyses of the plan as a whole since it was expected that such analyses would be prepared."

In fact, as the September consultative phase of the exercise approached and the CNAAs began to warn that major quality institutions might suffer disproportionately, the CNAAs paper claims that there was no overall statistical analysis and the information provided could not be adequately analysed. A request was made to the NAB for statistical data. Part was met in time for analysis before the council meeting but the remainder was not provided.

"Shortly before the open phase," the paper continues, "the CNAAs was declined access, on any basis, to information other than that provided to institutions." Some were later provided, but "the net effect was that the council was being prevented from doing a fully detailed analysis and hence from knowing - save by a careful and tedious comparison in a proportion of the cases - whether or not CNAAs courses were being put at risk."

The paper's tone moves from frustration through exhaustion - listing the drafts and letters and meetings during the three-week consultation - to pique as it notes that after this point "papers and documents continued to be provided only to board members; none were sent formally to the CNAAs."

In this circumstances, it implies, some confusion over the council meeting which changed its policy on quality judgments and thus paved the way for the town planning decision is understandable. "In retrospect it would have been better to have made the implications clearer in the letter to institutions" the paper admits.

The council's decision last month that it must continue giving quality advice to the NAB "in the public interest and in the interest of the public sector higher education system" is still far from accepted in institutions. Academic boards up and down the country have been voting not to cooperate with future ranking exercises.

The next move as far as the CNAAs is concerned is establishing a firmer and long term (assuming the NAB's life is extended) if not permanent relationship with the NAB; hence the request in Dr Kerr's letter for opinions on how (not whether) to establish that relationship.

The intriguing question is whether the picture of misunderstandings and ad hoc decisions in these papers will be enough to convince the public sector that next time it would be better to have a formal keepership with the NAB, than hope to keep an uncontaminated distance but risk last-minute confusion again.

Karen Gold

The party line to fame and fortune

Olga Wojtas reports on a scheme to help students go into business

The manager of Glasgow's Plaza ballroom had never seen anything like Gary Wilson's 21st birthday party. Nor had anyone else: with 700 guests, it was the biggest 21st party to be held in the city.

"I'd saved up for about 10 years," Gary admits. But he would agree he has had a reasonable return on his money. The manager was so impressed by his organizational flair that he asked Gary to run other events at the Plaza.

And so Gary spent his final year at Glasgow University not only studying drama and history, but also presenting such extravaganzas as a 1945 party, complete with air raid sirens, blackouts, and a bottle-top medal for each participant, a "Golden Age of Hollywood" evening, and a Black Christmas party, decorated with black Christmas trees, each disconcertingly topped with a black and white picture of the Prime Minister.

Gary, now 22, is one of the first graduates to emerge from the Graduate Enterprise Scheme, designed to help students set up their own small businesses.

After an 18-week course at Stirling University, which included market research, bookkeeping, accountancy, tax and personnel management, Gary is preparing to establish "The Fun Corporation", an entertainment agency which will tour his 16 party themes, backed by funds raised through discount cards and an entertainment newspaper.

The Graduate Enterprise Scheme is the brainchild of the Scottish Enterprise Foundation, based at Stirling University under the directorship of Professor Tom Cannon, Stirling's head of business studies.

Universities have never been noted for encouraging students to set up their own businesses, and Professor Cannon was appreciative about how graduate enterprise would be received.

"We started with a lot of preconceptions about resistance from students and universities - but we've had no resistance. We've been incredibly impressed by the wholehearted support." Each of the eight Scottish universities appointed enterprise counsellors who encouraged final year students to submit business ideas to a local panel of academics and business people. Last year, 1,000 students attended the one day conferences publicizing the scheme, with 150 later producing business proposals, 20 of which were eventually selected by a national panel.

The panel assessed whether the basic idea was viable, but Tom Cannon stresses: "We know nobody's going to come up with the perfect finished idea. It's very important to have the willingness to appraise yourself, and not to be frightened to say something isn't working."

"Of course, ideas are two a penny,

George Orwell's political insights have been greatly overvalued and it is perhaps ironic that the current revival of interest in his work should have taken its cue almost exclusively from the calendar and from a book which is by no means his best or most penetrating. If Orwell was a political writer (and he insisted that he was), then his real insights are to be found not in 1984 and Animal Farm but in his journalism and in the now rather undervalued novels of the 1930s.

Uncomfortable with systems, Orwell was an unparalleled observer and critic of the everyday. "Quality of life" was still a meaningful issue for Orwell and not yet a shibboleth. His concern for quality hinged absolutely on the actualities of life, never on abstractions. A Tribune column of 1945 has him, almost literally, up to the elbows in dishwater. If that suggests "occasional" writing of the narrowest sort, he quickly shifts focus to the Bronze Age utensils on show in the British Museum. History to Orwell was never a shadow-play of movements, theories, abstractions, but the story of how mankind set about solving specific practical problems. In the death of depression, warlike and post-war England

things appeared to have advanced very little. Orwell was one of the first to consider deeply the political nature of leisure and its relationship with work. Whatever the immediate occasion of that Tribune piece, for all his unMarxist view of labour, Orwell the writer was deeply concerned with the relation of art to the everyday. In a society so profoundly resistant to the imagination, were they dependent? or inimical?

There have been few revelations about Orwell this year. He was a guarded and private man, almost expressionless in the often-repeated photos that fuel all the retrospective films, no great source of anecdote; and, he was far more deeply rooted in the everyday than most writers of his stature. Setting aside a few myths centred on a colonial hanging, Spaulding, TB, Orwell almost entirely lacks the personal mythology most writers manage to gather in a career. However valuable it has been to expert critics and biographers, the George Orwell

The graduate who wanted to do accountancy on the Graduate Enterprise Scheme...



pure altruism. "We're helping good businesses to grow, and we hope the graduates will become clients of ours." He has been intrigued to find that many of the graduates' business proposals are based on their hobbies rather than the subjects they have studied.

Richard Taylor, who studied English and jurisprudence at Dundee, intends to produce a high quality windsurfing board. "I was totally surprised to get on the scheme. I thought it would be geared to high tech, blue chip style, not sport."

He has invested £1,000 of his own in a prototype board, which was received very favourably at the Boat Show. He exudes confidence, as do most of the graduates, who all discuss vast sums of money with startling equanimity.

"I'll need around £45,000," says Richard. "There are too many manufacturers in windsurfing at the moment, so it's more than just producing it, it's getting the promotion and the price right."

Jaqui Edwards, who studied biology, is in partnership with Jenni Ferguson, a modern languages graduate, to establish an up-market health club, with the latest American gymnasium equipment.

"Many of the clubs are just for people concerned with getting sunbaths. We're more interested in teaching healthy attitudes towards fitness and diet," says Jaqui. They need to raise £10,000 to set up their Edinburgh club. "At the moment we don't have any money. But we've got a few leads, and in a couple of weeks we'll start to find potential investors."

History and politics graduate Shona Finnie is seeking £75,000 for a dance studio, but fortunately intends to site it in Glasgow. The graduates, a close-knit, cooperative group, admit relations would have become very strained had they been competing for finances.

Other projects include a wholefoods restaurant, soft toy manufacturing, pottery exhibition pavilions, and a rival to the "Dungeons and Dragon" role playing games.

The graduate enterprise scheme has this session been extended beyond the universities to include central institutions and further education colleges, and the local panels are currently sifting through this year's business proposals.

"We were always worried that the scheme would be oversold, and people would think it was right for every student," says Professor Cannon.

At present, only 5 per cent of businesses in Britain are set up by graduates, and Tom Cannon is keen to help improve this figure. But he also hopes the bias against youth will be eroded. "What's got to happen, and I think it's happening slowly, is that people must realize the youth entrepreneur is with us."

In North America, over a third of all new businesses are started by people under 30, and over 40 per cent of all new high technology businesses are started by the under-30s.

"The old idea that you started a business after spending 15 years in industry is changing."

giving away little of the professional writer beyond a passion for lists that is very much characteristic of the books. Orwell throw away many of his manuscripts and tended to work in successive revised typescript. Even so, there are glimpses into the process of his work in his notebooks and fascinating hints of unfinished or aborted books such as *The Quick and the Dead*, a title which, slightly revised, was to make another author's reputation and to dominate the bestseller lists in 1949 and 1950, the years of Orwell's last illness and death.

The Orwell archive is not yet fully catalogued. As in every other corner of academic life, financial and practical restrictions have slowed up the process. However, much of the material will be on show in a special exhibition in the late spring. This, together with a facsimile edition of 1984 edited by Professor Peter Davison, will provide the year's best valuable insights. Orwell was first and foremost a novelist, immediately concerned with the novelist's traditional subject matter, "How it Was". What sets Orwell apart is his conviction that how it was in his own matches up to how it might be.

A miscellany of observations

Brian Morton visits the Orwell archive at London University

archive housed in the D.M.S. Watson Library at University College London, is a rather unbecoming collection, suggesting someone whose imagination was far more deeply entrenched and internalized than is usual in so prolific a writer.

It's tempting to suggest that the archive has been lent a few Orwellian props. Notebooks, journals and letters are flaked from unimpressive cardboard boxes and passed to the visitor on a space hurriedly cleared of milk-bottles, PG Tins and washing-up liquid. The Orwell archive is a working, populated place, wedged into two or three convenient corners of a rare books department in constant use by staff and research students. In no sense is it a hushed literary shrine of the sort beloved by American universities where letters and MSS are treated like holy relics.

Orwell's journals, written in ink or in board notebooks, either in ink or in the famous spotty biro given to him by Julian Symonds, are mainly of the "wargames for breakfast" variety.

The archive was set up as a trust in

John O'Leary on the brain drain from the elite research institutes

Institutes drain India's resources

Anyone who thinks all Indian higher education is underfunded or sub-standard should visit the clutch of elite institutes which have been built up over the last two decades.

The chosen establishments, together with a select band of universities, maintain high standards in post-graduate teaching and research and are treated accordingly. There is little sign of the problems of accommodation or financial support which beset most of the education system.

It is at the research level that India has departed most obviously from the British system of higher education inherited at independence. Although the University Grants Commission mount a significant research effort by singling out university departments of particular merit and giving them additional support as centres for advanced study, it is the institutes which often attract the cream both of students and academics.

Students queue up in their thousands to sit entrance examinations for the few available places at the institutes of technology or management, knowing that success means working conditions which are sheer luxury compared to those obtaining in most of the universities.

They know, too, that the institute is likely to provide quite literally a passport to career horizons beyond the reach of their colleagues. For India has been the victim of its own success in creating the new sector, which now offers the most striking example of the brain drain, depleting the country's intellectual resources almost as fast as they are brought to maturity.

Staff, too, are keen to have the benefit of the superior facilities available both in the institutes and in the government-sponsored research laboratories which are the other arm of the scientific effort being mounted so determinedly.

Like university teachers, they are paid badly compared with those in industry but many have been lured back to academic work even after testing comparative high life. Research in the elite sector offers a degree of freedom and working conditions missing in industry, as well as the challenge of high-flying academic work.

For there is no doubt that much of the research is of the highest quality. The Chemical Research Laboratory in Pune, for example, was chosen by the British construction firm David Mackie to produce a new type of catalyst, after a thorough search worldwide. The laboratory claims to be ahead of the United States and Britain in the field and is only one of 38 national laboratories directly funded by the government.

It will be some months before the publication of India's next five-year plan shows exactly what importance the government will place on its future research programme.

But there is little doubt that the subject will feature prominently and that the money will be made available to keep the institutes and laboratories at the forefront of their respective fields. The fundamental reason is Mrs Gandhi's apparently unshakable belief, inherited from her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, in the power of science to transform society.

How else is it possible to explain the near-obsession with space research which is evident in India today? Academic conferences on the subject take place all over the country and it is not unusual to find a self-respecting physicist department is complete without its space project.

The Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad, admittedly one of the three leaders in the field, sends up 10 rockets a year of its own; as well as involving itself in India's satellite programme and putting experiments onto the United States' space shuttle.

Academics justify the enormous cost of the programme partly in terms of its value for distance education: it is growing activity in India as universities try

to reach the vast numbers previously unable to contemplate further education.

However, distance education is usually a matter of correspondence courses at present and there is little likelihood of a sufficient proportion of the rural population (which is most in need of the service) having access to a system based on television.

The space programme undoubtedly has some developmental advantages, such as in predicting the onset of monsoons and even tidal waves, as researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, are now doing. But the contrast between the apparently limitless funding available for space research and other highly expensive prestige projects compared with the low budgets for vital areas such as primary and technical education remains striking.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for example, which is not noticeably better endowed than its four counterparts in New Delhi, Kharagpur, Kanpur and Madras, is able to operate a staff/student ratio of 8:1, which would be the envy of most universities in Britain as well as India.

All the IITs boast an array of modern equipment, which is to be found only spasmodically in the universities, and also house all their students on campus at extremely low rents which can be waived in cases of hardship.

The institutes were each sponsored by a particular country with the necessary expertise and wealth to get the technological effort off the ground. As a result, since the sector was modelled on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Bombay IIT provides the unusual spectacle of an elite establishment based on one of the most prestigious private institutions in the United States with the aid of the Soviet Union.



Mr Patel, going to LSE

The linking agreements have long since expired but continuing contact with the sponsoring nation, especially in the case of France, Britain and the United States, still offers advantages.

The drawback is that the links have provided the donor countries, particularly the United States, with an easy target for recruiting their own research students. American scholarships are freely available to the high-flyers in the IITs and most are only too happy to join the brain drain. Indeed, only take 10 per cent of students stay on to take PhDs after their degree or MSc, as many of the others take their talents abroad.

Much the same story is told at the Indian Institutes of Management. Although, unlike the IITs, they do not have university status, there is intense competition for places and a tendency for graduates to drift abroad. At Ahmedabad, for example, which is about to lose its director, Dr I. G. Patel, to the London School of Economics, private funds now account for more than half all incomes and there is little inclination to pursue a long-standing application for university classification. Again, a prestige institution set in an expensive modern campus is losing many of its best brains to the United States, which, through the Harvard Business School, assisted in its establishment.

It is a problem which confronts India throughout. Its research sector, although some academics are now being tempted home as the country establishes itself in the world league, the numbers hardly compensate for the continuing loss. But the government has little choice but to keep up its expensive investment if it wants to press ahead with its aim of developing indigenous technology. Having gone so far there is little doubt that it will



Shoel-Winchester students: representatives of Japan's well-heeled middle classes

Japanese Shoel-place

For all its remarkable industrial success and technological progress, Japan is still arguably the least internationalised society in the developed world. To an extent, this is a continuing legacy of 230 years of self-imposed isolation which ended only in 1868.

Cocooned by geography, Japan's 119 millions still experience foreigners and foreigners largely vicariously: foreigners in their midst constitute less than 0.5 per cent of the population. And for all the seeming but ultimately misleading Western influence, Japan remains a very Japanese place.

Such distinctive nationalism has been causing the Japanese problems overseas for some time.

The problem of internationalizing Japanese society is increasingly finding its way into the lap of education.

The irony is that Japanese education itself must bear a good deal of responsibility for Japan's failures of international communication at both linguistic and cultural levels. Despite recent reforms, universities remain all-Japanese affairs, clannish and traditional.

The 7,000 or so Japanese children who return from overseas each year are branded "returned children" and in recent years have been put into "reculturation" programmes. Stories circulate about returnees fluent in foreign languages who conceal this ability along with the fact that they have lived in the "outside".

As pressure builds on Japan to internationalize itself, from the West as well as from the New Japan clones which want technical training and technology transfers, Britain finds itself the object of a novel experiment in the case of Japan.

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Michael Houser on a course in England which aims to end Japan's isolation

Okami, a former international businessman with Mitsui, and his brother Kyo, general manager of Marubeni Corporation in Dublin, quickly realized the possibilities.

With the Okamis lined up, Agata dispatched Rikkyo's Japanese Anglican chaplain, Ken Imai, to Church House to find a suitable English partner. Its size (1,100 students), location, and historic character (Winchester)

made King Alfred's the preferred choice. The Japanese have not however come to England purely because of the Anglican connexion. With 21,000 plus Japanese living here already, Britain has the largest Japanese population and industrial presence in Europe; some 4,000 Japanese now come here annually to study EFL. And physical safety - in comparison with the United States - was another factor.

Two and a half years later, in September 1982, lightning speed by the standards of Japanese negotiations, the first intake of 19 Shoel girls, all aged 18 to 20, arrived on campus, before in fact King Alfred's had time to realize fully what they had got themselves into. Shoel extended King Alfred's a £500,000 interest-free mortgage to construct what amounts to a Shoel enclave on campus: an all-Japanese residence hall and their own teaching block. Last September, a further 20 students.

The bricks and mortar and the 40-year term of the Shoel mortgage (renegotiable thereafter) clearly suggest that Shoel intends to stay for a long time. What is less clear is the precise nature of the school's bid which has emerged from what King Alfred's principal, Marjorie Rose, concedes have been complex and at times difficult even heated negotiations.

King Alfred's has called it the Shoel-Winchester programme although some outsiders have styled it a "college within a college", more in keeping with Shoel's billing in Tokyo, where it is styled "Resident Shoel College". The programme's director, Claudia Armstrong, only became aware of Shoel's existence a couple of years ago. The first year's intake arrived "there almost a tension on this point; but for the fact that the girls are resident here, Shoel seems to regard them as theirs".

The programme is administered within King Alfred's College of Arts and Sciences, and the students are charged tuition at a true cost rate which works out to £2,600. All nine tuition on the two-year course are King Alfred's faculty members, none of whom had previously experienced the particular problems posed by Japanese students, although Shoel has three Britons - all Japanese speakers - on its staff in Tokyo, no Shoel staff have so far taught at King Alfred's.

King Alfred's has created the two-year course to its own design and validates it internally: offered the student a certificate of attendance by the university, all the students have opted for the latter.

But Tokyo won't let go, according to Claudia Armstrong. "Shoel retains an element of control on the residential side. Their residence, their rules." As King Alfred's students, the Japanese are NUS members and are free to sit in on undergraduate courses, as they do from time to time. Although initial teaching troubles like Shoel's concern that they should not enter the union bar, that they should each be paired to room with a British student and that they should be fined for speaking Japanese in the residence hall, have been resolved, both sides are clearly finding their way.

"It is beyond your imagination how many difficulties Japanese people experience when we live abroad," claims Ichiro Tamaki, dean-at-interim in the Shoel programme. At the Shoel students now live together in their three-star residence, a complete reversal of Shoel's initial intentions; similarly, after three months, the prohibition against using Japanese in the residence was also dropped.

The tutors who teach them have two abiding concerns: how to come to grips with them intellectually, and what effects the course will have on them when they re-enter Japanese society.

The reaction of one tutor, "there is something fundamentally different about Japan's education system," typifies the problems all nine have experienced in dealing with initially passive, reluctant students unused to expressing opinions, developing critical views or coping with open-ended assignments. These Japanese themselves, however, anticipate few "readjustment" problems.

Ichiro Tamaki said: "Of course, Japanese back home will regard them as a little bit foreign," but he regards as the fact that they come from well-off families and, more importantly, that they are females as more significant. At the outset, Shoel's hope was that after completing the course, some students would stay on for further studies while the rest would, once back in Japan again, find their way into international trading companies and into marriages with managers destined for overseas postings. Shoel may get more than they bargained for. Already there are signs that prolonged exposure to a culture which emphasizes individualism as much as Britain does has altered perspectives among the students, and encouraged them to question the lifestyle and career patterns ordained for them by Japanese society.

In terms of "internationalism", the Shoel-Winchester programme is small potatoes; but it is a start. King Alfred's is now hoping to begin a faculty exchange this year and is even considering how a Japanese language course might be introduced into its undergraduate curriculum.

Solar physics is one of the most interesting and rapidly developing branches of astrophysics at the present time, and, because we know more about the Sun than any other astronomical object, this branch is also the most highly developed. The proximity of the Sun and the resulting great detail of the observations provide many constraints on the imagination of theorists like myself who need to employ a wide variety of sophisticated mathematical techniques in order to model solar phenomena.

Recently, our understanding of the Sun has been revolutionized, so that our current knowledge was undreamed of 20 years ago. The revolution was stimulated by high-resolution observations from the great solar observatories in the USA, France and Germany, as well as huge space satellites such as Skylab and the Solar Maximum Mission. The United Kingdom has played a crucial role in using its theoretical expertise to interpret and model these observations and has also been actively involved in the space observations, particularly from the Solar Maximum Mission.

There are several reasons for studying the Sun. First, it can improve our understanding of the behaviour of stars in general. Although the Sun is the only star we can probe closely, many of its basic properties are not yet explained. Second, the Sun represents a cosmic laboratory where we can study the fundamental behaviour of a plasma - the fourth state of matter. Third, solar activity affects the Earth's upper atmosphere, and it may also alter our weather in subtle ways that are not a present understood: for example, during a period of seventy years in the seventeenth century known as the Maunder minimum there were very few sunspots on the Sun, and this coincided with the so-called "little ice age" when the river Thames froze over. However, many solar scientists confess that their main motivation for engaging in research is simply the incredible beauty and intriguing behaviour of the Sun itself.

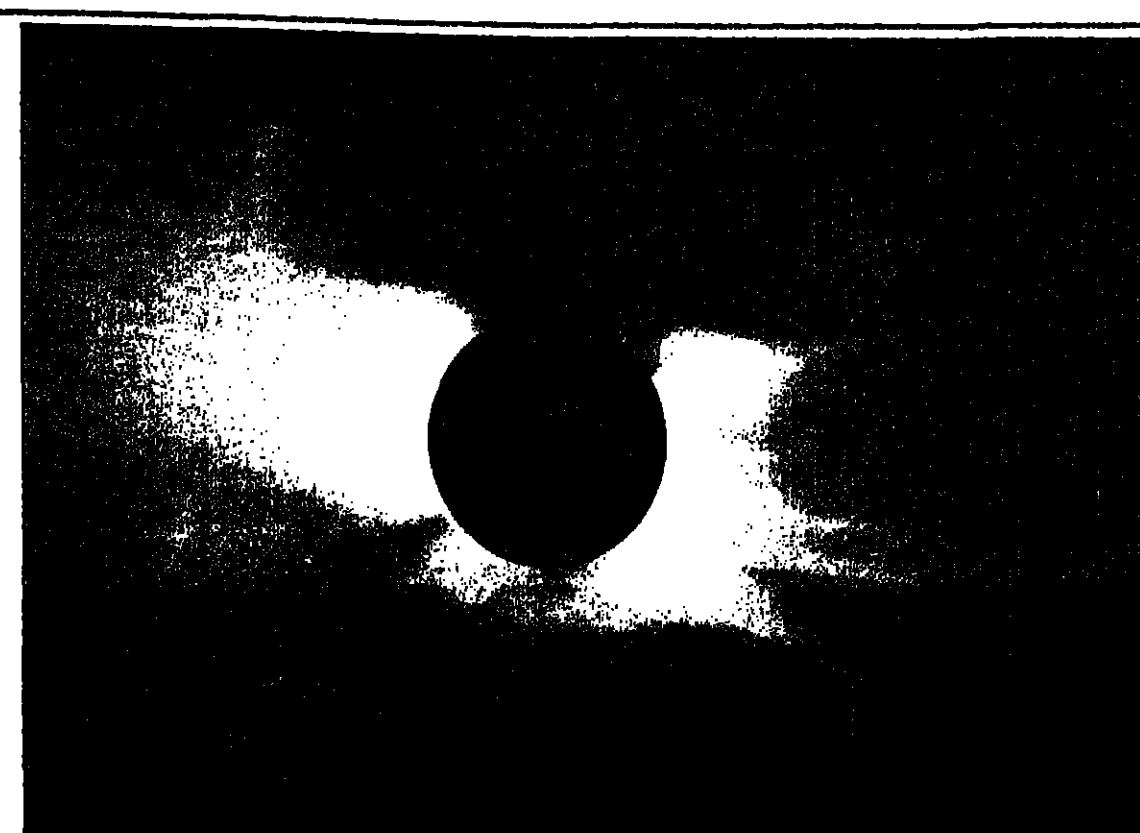
When the temperature of a solid (such as ice, for example) is raised, so it changes its state, becoming first a liquid (water) and then a gas (water vapour). When it is heated even more, it eventually becomes ionized, as the atoms break up into positively and negatively charged particles. The properties of an ionized gas are so different from those of a normal gas that it is given a new name - a plasma. Most of the universe is in this plasma state, with the Earth being a tiny island of solid, liquid and gas sitting in a river of plasma which is flowing out from the Sun. Climbing above the Earth's surface to the ionosphere, one becomes surrounded by a plasma, which occupies the space between the planets, stars and galaxies, and from which the stars themselves are composed.

Thus, an appreciation of the properties of plasma is central to modern astronomy. In particular, it is found that there is a strong but subtle and nonlinear interaction between plasma and the magnetic fields that are universally present. For example, magnetic fields exert forces which can eject plasmas rapidly away from the Sun, and they can also insulate locally hot or cool plasma from its surroundings. Magnetic fields create a wide range of different structures and they allow waves to carry energy and information

from one location to another. They also store energy and can occasionally go unstable, converting magnetic energy into heat and rapid motions.

The basic features of the Sun are as follows. It is a ball of plasma with a radius of 700,000 km (110 times that of the Earth), and its core consists of a successful fusion reactor where hydrogen atoms are being combined to give helium. The heat is generated very gently and leaks out extremely slowly, taking ten million years to reach the solar surface. However, we know very little for certain about the solar interior because it is hidden from view. Most of the visible light comes from a thin surface layer, known as the photosphere, only 500 km deep. Being heated from below, it is in a turbulent state, just like a bubbling pot of porridge on a stove. Rising above the surface the density falls by a factor of a million, while the temperature surprisingly increases from a photospheric value of six thousand degrees to a value of two million degrees in the outer atmosphere known as the corona.

Our understanding of the Sun's atmosphere has changed dramatically over the past few years. For example, it has been discovered that the whole Sun is oscillating with its natural frequencies and with velocity amplitudes of 10 cm/s or less. The properties of these global oscillations are being used to probe the interior, much in the same way that seismology is used to discover the properties of the Earth's interior. Researchers in Bir-



An eclipse photograph of the Sun in white light. (Courtesy High Altitude Observatory, USA.)

Looking into the Sun

Eric Priest describes how our knowledge of solar physics has changed dramatically over the last few years

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ingham and Cambridge are leading the world in this new subject of solar seismology, which is presenting many surprises such as the suggestion that the deep interior is rotating much faster than the solar surface. It is also thought that the Sun's magnetic field, like that of the Earth, is being generated by a dynamo mechanism in its interior. However, unlike the Earth's field, which is generally constant, the solar field oscillates with a period of 11 years and causes the number of sunspots to vary in the same manner.

Until recently, it was thought that in the photosphere the magnetic field is unimportant with a uniform strength of 1 Gauss (similar to the Earth's) apart from small dark regions (sunspots) where fields of 3,000 Gauss are found. However, it is now known that scattered over the whole solar surface there are tiny intense magnetic tubes with fields of 1,000 to 2,000 Gauss, whose basic properties are being investigated at St Andrews.

The corona too is highly structured with a rich variety of phenomena dominated by the magnetic field. The corona has always presented an air of mystery since it is normally only visible during a solar eclipse for a few minutes when the Moon blocks out the intense photospheric light and allows us to glimpse its faint pearly light. Modern eclipse photographs reveal a beautiful structure outlining the magnetic field. Close to the solar surface the magnetic field forms closed regions where it is able to hold the plasma down. Far from the Sun the magnetic field is dragged open by plasma which flows steadily outwards at a few hundred kilometres per second as the solar wind. A great puzzle that is testing our imagination is to explain how the corona is heated to such high temperatures of a few million degrees. The old explanation was that sound waves are generated by turbulent motions in the photosphere and then propagate upwards into the corona, where they sleep to form shock waves and dump the energy they are carrying, in much the same way that water waves approach a beach and eventually break.

One of the biggest mysteries in solar physics has been the cause of the solar flare, the most dramatic event in the solar system. During a flare the magnetic field near a group of sunspots suddenly goes unstable and releases an enormous amount of energy as a violent explosion, heating the corona up to 20 million degrees and accelerating many fast particles. One or two days after a large event a huge mass of plasma ejected by the flare may reach the Earth and initiate a geomagnetic substorm. Long-range radio communications may be blacked out. Surges may be induced in long-distance power lines and there may be spectacular displays of northern lights. In St Andrews a group has been trying

to understand why and how flares occur, in particular how the magnetic energy is built up and suddenly released. A new discovery is that regions (called neutral points) where the magnetic field vanishes may be created and annihilated in pairs in an impulsive manner, rather like the creation and annihilation of a particle-antiparticle pair in particle physics. It is just where such neutral point pairs are being destroyed that the electric current is the strongest and the energy release is the most intense.

The numbers of sunspots and of flares present on the Sun vary with an 11-year cycle. In 1981 we were at a peak in the number of sunspots and so in February of the previous year the Americans launched the \$100m Solar Maximum Mission spacecraft weighing 5,500lb, with the aim of studying solar flares in great detail. The satellite is in a circular orbit 310 miles high which takes 96 minutes to complete. British scientists from Birmingham University and the Mullard and Rutherford Appleton Laboratories helped to build and operate two of the experiments on board. The satellite worked spectacularly well with its seven instruments covering a wide range of wavelengths in the ultra-violet, X-ray and gamma-ray regions of the spectrum, which are not visible from the ground. These have produced a wealth of data that is taking years to analyse and understand at research groups in the USA and the UK. In particular, a series of workshops in Washington over the past year has

provided an opportunity to present the observations and debate possible explanations. Supporting the satellite observations has been a 19-month cooperative effort known as the International Solar Maximum Year, in which 400 scientists from all over the world have analysed observations from the ground and have developed theories to account for them.

The Solar Maximum Mission instruments have provided coordinated observations of the previously little-understood process by which energy is built up and suddenly released. A gamma ray instrument has measured the gamma ray radiation lines produced by extremely high-energy particles. The results have turned upside down the previously accepted theories of particle acceleration by showing that high energy ions and relativistic electrons are accelerated together within only a few seconds. There were also two hard X-ray instruments on the satellite, one of which has provided images that show the actual site of the flare in hard X-rays for the first time. In soft X-rays, plasma with temperatures between two and 20 million degrees has been observed flowing rapidly up into the corona in the early stages of a flare. An ultraviolet instrument has focussed on the cooler plasma at a few hundred thousand degrees which is seen to be streaming back down to the surface later on as it cools. Finally, a telescope with an occulting disk that creates an artificial eclipse has revealed enormous loop-like regions of plasma that are ejected out into interplanetary space from the flare site.

The Solar Maximum Mission is the first of a new generation of "multimission modular spacecraft" designed to be serviceable by the Space Shuttle. Unfortunately, the guiding system, which had been pointing the telescopes on board the satellite accurately towards the Sun, failed after nearly a year's operation. It was therefore decided to use one of the launches of the Space Shuttle (probably in April of this year) to try and repair the satellite. The plan is for the Shuttle to park nearby and for an astronaut (without a safety line) to fly out to the satellite by means of a new gas-propelled backpack known as a "manned manoeuvring unit" and nicknamed the "space motorbike". The astronaut will then attach himself to the satellite and will steer it into the cargo bay. After the repairs have been carried out, the satellite will probably be carried to a higher orbit (to prolong its life) and then released.

The Sun is continuing to surprise us in many ways by the ingenuity and subtly with which its magnetic field behaves. This is teaching us new features of the fundamental behaviour of a plasma, which has important implications for other astronomical bodies. Similar processes are at work in other stars. In the Earth's magnetic field and in laboratory devices for containing plasma which may well create power for us in the next century. Closer links with workers on these topics are to be welcomed and are certain to enhance considerably our understanding of cosmic magnetic activity in future.

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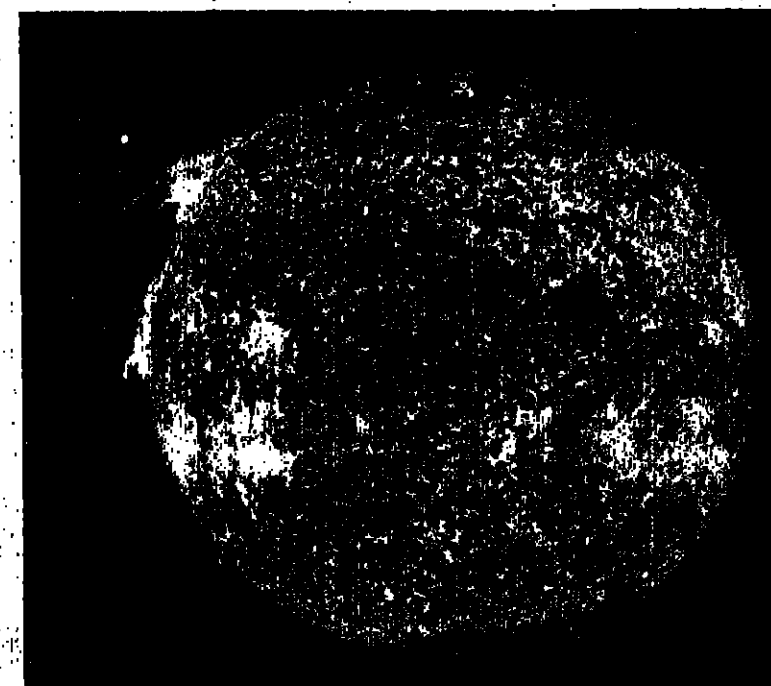
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A violent eruption of plasma associated with a solar flare. (Courtesy Naval Research Laboratory)

The Eastern front

Murphy's law

BOOKS

Building on Keynes

On their own feet

GIVE YOUR SHELF A TREAT

**OXFORD
DICTIONARIES**

Ken Booth
Ken Booth is senior lecturer in international politics at University College, Aberystwyth.

BOOKS

Occupied Germany

The French Revolution in Germany: occupation and resistance in the Rhineland, 1792-1802
By T. C. W. Blanning
Oxford University Press, £22.50
ISBN 0 19 822564 4

Europe's reaction to the French Revolution has never ceased to fascinate historians. The impact of events in France on the other continental states during the 1790s was sufficiently extensive, varied, and in places uncertain not to inhibit intelligent speculation. Since 1945 two principal attempts have been made to portray this response to accord with prevailing political ideologies. The first of these, the thesis of an "Atlantic" or "Democratic" revolution advanced in the 1950s and 1960s by M. Jacques Godechot and Professor R. R. Palmer, never secured wide acceptance and, in passing, Dr Blanning drives a few more nails into the coffin. The principal purpose of *The French Revolution in Germany*, however, is to tackle a more recent, and considerably more significant, distortion: the obsession with an indigenous radical movement in the Rhineland.

This quest for the German Jacobins has been enthusiastically undertaken by scholars in East and West Germany, particularly during the last decade. Heinrich Scheel and Walter Grab, together with their numerous acolytes and disciples, have vigorously championed the idea that these radicals were the forerunners of modern [East] German democracy. Their emphasis on the central role and contemporary importance of the Rhineland Jacobins has not gone unchallenged, but doubting voices have largely been silenced by the strident and uncompromising way in which this thesis has been advanced. Purveyors of inconvenient historical facts have been witheringly dismissed by Professor Scheel as "source fetishists".

Dr Blanning has clearly been exasperated by much of this writing. In this vigorous, combative and vividly-written book he takes up the cudgel against Scheel and his followers. To support this attack he deploys a notably wide range of sources: over a dozen archives scattered throughout the Rhineland as well as those of Paris and Vienna have been consulted, together with a wide range of printed documents and secondary studies. The extent of his research enables him to do justice, perhaps for the first time, to the two dimensions of the story: the perspectives of the French occupiers and of the Germans who endured occupation. The result is one of the most important contributions to later eighteenth-century European history to be published in recent years.

This book marks a further significant shift in emphasis in studies of the French Revolution's impact on Germany. Traditionally most attention was given to ideas, to the initial enthusiasm of a generation of intellectuals headed by Goethe and to the way in which they were disillusioned. More recently the German radicals have

absorbed most attention. Dr Blanning sets out along a distinct path. The subtle provides the key to his book: the physical impact of the revolution, during the decade between the initial occupation in 1792 and the final annexation of the left bank in 1802, is for him decisive. The Rhineland response, he believes, was determined primarily by the presence of a large and undisciplined army. At its peak in the mid 1790s the French army in the region was around 250,000 strong (including non-combatants) and could not be supported by a bankrupt government in Paris. Looting and requisitioning became ubiquitous and continuous.

The behaviour of the French army intensified the strong emotional and economic ties which bound Rhinelanders to the old regime. The destruction which resulted from the occupation was on a scale unparalleled since the darkest days of the Thirty Years War, and it confirmed ordinary

Rhinelanders in their hostility to the French liberators. Their resentment was increased by the economic collapse which the occupation caused and by the revolution's religious policies which naturally offended the predominantly Catholic Rhineland.

Dr Blanning's central thesis is that the army, while making French annexation possible, also made civilian government impossible. Political instability in Paris produced frequent changes in personnel in the Rhineland, and this did nothing to advance the prospects of success for France's policy of freedom by compulsion. Within a few years liberation had become exploitation, and the sheer size of the French army ensured that the demands were on a completely new scale. The "exploitation, repression and corruption" that characterized French rule soon completed the alienation of most Germans, and by the late 1790s it alienated many of the radicals as well. This sombre examination of the

record of the occupying French regime prepares the ground for a frontal assault on the importance of German Jacobinism. Dr Blanning's book makes clear the small number of radicals and their isolation. The German Jacobins were always less numerous and less important than their recent historians have suggested. In this connexion, Dr Blanning's notable review article (*Historical Journal*, vol 23, 1980) is the essential complement to his book. Disillusioned by the behaviour of the French, the radicals were none the less trapped in a marriage of political convenience and remained tied to the occupying regime throughout the 1790s.

Dr Blanning's study illuminates many facets of French, German and European history in the 1790s. His description of the activities of the French army of occupation is a significant contribution to military history while he also provides a novel and intriguing perspective on the instabil-

ity of French government in the 1790s. One particular merit of this study is its awareness of the broader perspective. Developments in the Rhineland are compared with other occupied areas, such as Belgium or Italy. This book brings us a stage nearer a satisfactory study of French military expansion in the 1790s and the resistance which it encountered and aroused, and it immediately becomes required reading for all historians of the French Revolution. It provides the necessary antidote to the more extravagant claims recently put forward for the German Jacobins, and does so with humour and élan; but Dr Blanning had better not meet Professor Scheel on a dark night!

H. M. Scott

H. M. Scott is lecturer in modern history at the University of St Andrews.

All her worldly goods

Wives and Property
by Lee Holcombe
Martin Robertson, £17.50
ISBN 0 85520 607 1

Millicent Fawcett, one of the leading figures in the movement for the reform of the married women's property law had her purse snatched by a thief; when she appeared in court to testify against him she heard him being charged with "stealing from the person of Millicent Fawcett a purse containing £1 18s 6d, the property of Henri Fawcett". Long afterwards she recalled "I felt as if I had been charged with theft myself".

The main theme of this book is the struggle during the nineteenth century for the reform of the married women's property law. It traces the development of the groups which campaigned for this major legal change and contains an excellent analysis of the various proposals which they and others put forward.

It begins with a description of the legal and practical problems faced by wives under a legal system which regarded them as having no legal personality independent of that of their husbands. These difficulties were so great in relation to property and earnings that the reform of the married women's property law was seen as the first practical step in the emancipation of women.

When a wife earned money it automatically became the property of her husband. Even Mrs Gaskell complained that her husband had received and used some of the proceeds from her books. Many more women were working in response to the changing economic and social climate and they felt they had a right to control their earnings. By 1851 well over three quarters of a million married women were working, representing nearly a quarter of all women employed. These working wives were mostly poorer women but the relatively small but growing number of middle-class

women among them used every means available to them to publicize the injustices.

The celebrated Caroline Sheridan (Mrs George Norton) was such a woman. Her husband abducted their three sons while she was visiting her brother and then advertised in the papers that she had left him and that he would not be responsible for her debts. He retained and sold all her personal effects, many of which had been bought from the proceeds of her own writing. This drove her to begin her first campaign to reform the property laws and she inspired many others, including the unconventional Barbara Leigh-Smith who formed a committee to reform the laws relating to married women. When they set out to reform the property laws, it was the beginning of an organized feminist movement which included many of the outstanding women writers, artists, educationists and hostesses of the time. Ms Holcombe briefly describes these leading figures and analyses the reasons for their participation.

She then outlines their campaign in some detail, relating it to contemporary political economic and social developments. Their first step, the presentation of a petition to Parliament in 1836, gained them the support of many influential men who were pledged to fight the women's battle in the legislature. However, the first reform, the Divorce Act 1857, was not passed as a result of their work. Although it represented an important step for women's emancipation, it was limited in its effect upon the property laws during marriage. Under its provisions any woman who obtained a decree of judicial separation or a divorce obtained the property rights of an unmarried woman.

One of the consequences of this Act was to slow down the impetus for change in the law relating to a wife's property rights within marriage. It was not until the 1860s, with the reorganization of the group and the support of such figures as J. S. Mill, that the movement revived.

The renewed campaign had a temporary setback with the passage of the inadequate Married Women's Property Act 1870 and it was not until 1882 that the campaign was completed with the adoption of all the committee's proposals in the Act of that year. This gave married women the same rights over property as unmarried women and established that husband and wife should have separate interests in property. *The Times* commented "January 1, 1883 is a great date in the annals of married women. What emancipation is this!"

It was more than a great legal victory in the long struggle to give women equal rights because it represented the first major movement led and directed by women for their own emancipation. The group developed into an effective political force and was able to exploit any opportunity available to promote its cause. Ms Holcombe asks why it succeeded so long before the suffrage campaign and decides that it was the unity of purpose and tactics together with the extensive male support which led to the earlier success of the property reform group.

This is a scholarly historical and legal analysis of an important campaign which for too long has held second place to the battle for women's suffrage.

Judith Mayhew

Judith Mayhew is lecturer in law at King's College London.

BOOKS

Ants, bees and wasps

Social Insects: ecology and behavioural biology
by M. V. Brian
Chapman & Hall, £25.00 and £12.95
ISBN 0 412 22920 X and 22930 7

Social insects have always fascinated man. Research has continued to increase in recent years, providing many interesting discoveries and ideas that have found wide application.

In examining the current state of our knowledge of all those insects that have attained higher social organizations involving caste differentiation (that is, ants, honeybees, stingless bees, bumblebees, social wasps and termites), Dr Brian considers the relationship of social communities to food supply and competition in the environment; the growth, development and differentiation of populations within colonies; colony reproduction and dispersal; species coexistence; behaviour of a colony's individual members; means of communication between members; and the origins of sociality. There can be few biologists competent to provide a balanced survey of such a

wide field. Dr Brian is one of them. He assumes that the reader will have a basic knowledge of social insect biology and wherever possible tends to concentrate on reporting the latest work and to quote just sufficient from older reference material for the reader to obtain an entry into past literature. To give two examples: although bee dance communication is not described in any detail, the relevant section concentrates on problems associated with recent experimental procedures in testing the effectiveness of communication; and the discussion of the inhibition of queen production in honeybee colonies is confined mostly to publications from 1979 and later, on the source of the inhibitory chemical involved and how it is distributed.

About half the references in the extensive bibliography were published in the past five or six years. Despite this, the book gives a wide, thorough coverage and I cannot find any subject of particular interest to me that is not mentioned. Furthermore, a subject is often enriched by being presented in a wide context, with an originality of thought that is both constructive and stimulating. Indeed, the book has encouraged me to rethink a number of traditionally accepted concepts.

Although Dr Brian's book is not concerned with the economic importance of the social insects, the information it contains is vital in developing more efficient means of controlling those species that become pests in various parts of the world by destroying man's buildings and eating his field produce, or in encouraging more

efficient use of those that pollinate our agricultural and horticultural crops.

The book will be valuable for undergraduates, and especially so for post-graduates, established research workers and university teachers, many of whom will appreciate the succinct discussions of topical subjects such as foraging strategies (bees), foraging trails (ants), microclimate regulation (bumblebees), caste control (wasps and ants) and social evolution mechanisms. During recent years the importance of pheromones (chemicals secreted by animals to influence the behaviour of others of the same species) in the control and organization of social insect communities has become increasingly apparent; and it is particularly pleasing to see the reference material on pheromones surveyed under such diverse subjects as foraging trails, colony defence, caste control, mating and swarming.

Many of those studying social insects soon become specialized in one insect group, and because of the overwhelming literature they can lose sight of the latest trends in other groups. I would strongly recommend that they read Dr Brian's book from cover to cover, both to widen their horizons and to obtain a clear picture of how their own speciality and research fits in with more general concepts.

John B. Free

John B. Free is a senior principal scientific officer at Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden.

Shades of Darwinism

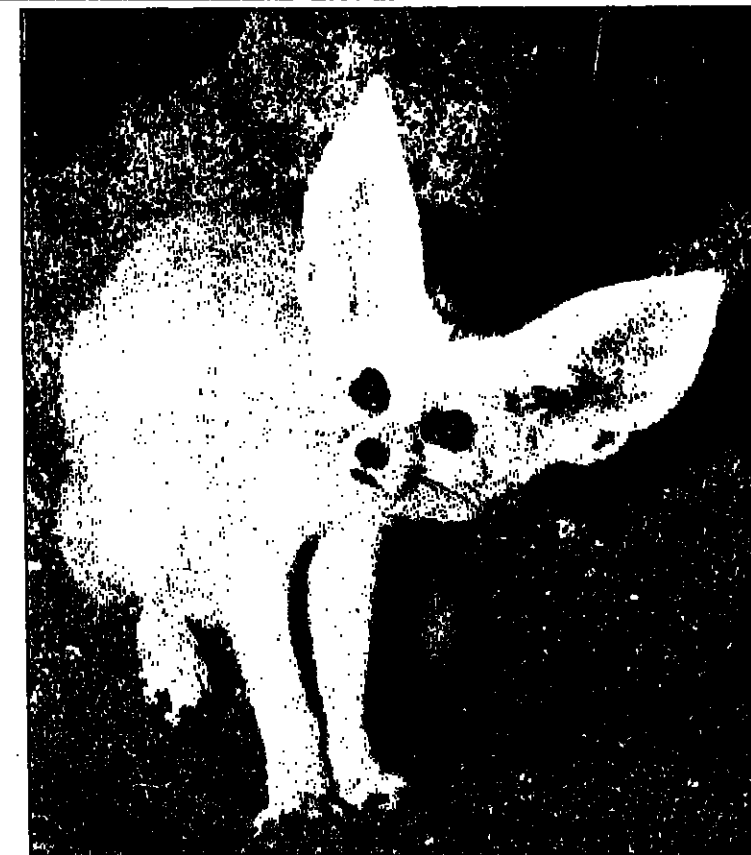
The Eclipse of Darwinism: anti-Darwinian evolution theories in the decades around 1900
by Peter J. Bowler
Johns Hopkins University Press, £19.50
ISBN 0 8018 2932 1

Nothing goes out of date faster than science, unless it be histories of science written from the perspective of current scientific knowledge. The dangers of such evaluations are all too apparent in the older historical literature, where judgments often shift radically from decade to decade simply to meet the demands of the latest scientific discoveries. One of the classic instances of this can be found in discussions of post-Darwinian evolutionary theory. For although Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection is today a focus of intense historical attention, its place in history has not always been so secure. In 1903 one German naturalist stood at *The Deathbed of Darwinism*, while two decades later historian of biology Eric Nordenskiöld believed that the corpse would never be revived.

These criticisms are representative of a widespread anti-Darwinian movement in the twenty years on either side of 1900. Within two decades of the publication of the *Origin of Species* in 1859, the book's theories had been subjected to sustained criticism and a host of alternative evolutionary mechanisms had been put forward. Apparently Darwin had succeeded in converting the world to evolution, but natural selection seemed unlikely to stand the test of time. Only in the 1930s, with the marriage of Mendelian genetics and selectionist ideas in the modern "synthetic theory" of evolution, did Darwinian fortunes revive.

This turn-of-the-century "eclipse" of natural selection has continued to cast a strong shadow over modern historical studies. In general, accounts of evolutionary theory after 1859 have been of two kinds: some examine the *Origin's* immediate reception, while the others pick up the story a few decades later and search for the roots of the synthetic theory. The elements that failed to contribute in an obvious way to modern ideas have been almost entirely ignored.

Peter Bowler's new study of late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century evolutionary theories thus fills an important gap in the history of science. It gives an indispensable tour through the primary sources and will be valued above all for its exposition of the origins, interrelationships, and ultimate decline of a host of complex scientific ideas. Characterizing this untidy literature cannot have been



Fennec fox, Sahara. From David Attenborough's *The Living Planet*, produced as a companion to the author's current series on BBC television and published this week by Collins/BBC Publications at £12.00.

an easy task, yet the volume as a whole is well organized and clearly written. Beyond its value as a guide through a little-known chapter in the history of biology, *The Eclipse of Darwinism* discusses a number of intriguing issues. Why an eclipse in the first place? According to the author, the anti-Darwinian theories signalled the resurgence of conservative values of teleology and idealism, which then only gradually lost their hold over evolutionary theorizing. Darwin's immediate victory over an older philosophy of nature thus lasted only a decade or two. This is a convincing argument in most respects, although it seems unlikely that the kind of deep-seated beliefs which must have been involved could have been suppressed temporarily after the *Origin's* first appearance. A more plausible interpretation (and one at which Bowler occasionally hints) might be that natural selection never really commanded a consensus until the 1940s. In this sense, the "eclipse of Darwinism" may be only apparent.

The image of an eclipse is also potentially misleading in another way: it conjures up a highly-charged duality of Darwinian light conquering anti-Darwinian darkness. Not surprisingly, this Manichean metaphor ori-

ginated as part of Julian Huxley's twentieth-century campaign for a revival of Darwinism. Although Bowler avoids many of the historiographical dangers in the image, traces certainly remain: naturalists needed to "face up to the necessity of fully purging the element of divine control from their thought", while even the ultimately victorious experimental approach of the geneticists was "contaminated" by the older philosophy.

While leaving little doubt that secularism and scientific method will triumph in the end, *The Eclipse of Darwinism* critically avoids the more common danger of choosing an historical subject solely because of its current importance. And the result does much more than recall forgotten controversies. After Bowler, the transformation of evolutionary theory can no longer be portrayed as a straightforward, obvious, or simple process. As so often happens in the history of science, the exploration of apparent dead-ends and byways has suggested a need for resurveying the main road.

J. A. Secord

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Sound advice

Guide to Good Programming Practice (second edition)
edited by Brian Meek, Patricia Heath and Nick Rusby
Ellis Horwood, Wiley, £8.50
ISBN 0 85312 554 6

The widespread use of Basic on computers at school and in the home has made the acquisition of programming skills important for millions of people, but few will have been taught programming as a rigorous discipline. As rigorous as it is essential to the production of high-quality software, this book can be seen as an attempt to increase professionalism in a wide variety of computer users.

The book is full of sound advice from a number of experts. Despite having ten authors, both coverage and consistency are good. Numerous insights are provided in every aspect of programming - specification, coding, testing, maintenance and management. On testing, the authors consider a case in which a program consists of two parts. If each part requires 100 cases to test properly, then testing each separately will require 200 tests, but to test both together would require 100 x 100 = 10,000 tests (beyond the endurance of most programmers). The separation of a program into parts and the separate testing of each part is therefore essential.

The book has a scientific basis: because of the authors' experience, the commercial language Cobol is not used in the examples and many of the illustrations would be needlessly difficult for the commercial programmer. Also, this second edition is still somewhat out of date: there is no reference to colour graphics or the use of word processors for computing documentation, even though the card punch (as a

computer peripheral) is mentioned. I was disappointed by the section on real-time programming - used when computers perform processing as initiated by operators at remote terminals and return results quick enough so that they are not aware of the interruption (for example, in credit checking and airline seat reservation systems). During the past few years, Edger Dijkstra, Antony House and Per Brinch Hansen have shown how the trickery (to which the authors merely allude) can be taken out of real-time programming, and it is now possible to program separately device-drivers, operating systems, and so on, in a high-level language, thereby alleviating some of the problems of translating from one piece of hardware to the other. The resulting programs can be elegant and can be proved correct. With new high-level languages like Ada (designed for the US military), and Occam (designed by INMOS, the state-owned microprocessor company, for their new "transputer"), it is to be hoped that the black-art of accessing "status flags" will disappear.

It is conventional to think of a programming language as one which can be directly handled by the computer. This is a needless restriction. Sometimes the optimal approach is to program at a higher (or more abstract) level (often called pseudo-code) and then rewrite it in the specific language required. Although there are problems in keeping the pseudo-code and ordinary code in step, the method is useful and should have been given more prominence in the book.

My criticisms, however, are minor. The book deserves to be widely read, although I fear that just those who could gain most from reading it will not appreciate its worth and hence will not even open its pages.

Brian Wichmann

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Earth structures

Earth Structures Engineering
by R. J. Mitchell
Allen & Unwin, £20.00 and £11.95
ISBN 0 04 624003 9 and 624004 7

Earth structures are constructions of site available earth, designed to satisfy the environmental requirements of man in an economical and safe manner. One of the best examples of an earth structure is the Scammonden Dam in West Yorkshire, a dam which creates a reservoir of water for the West Yorkshire industrial heartland and carries the M62 from Leeds to Manchester along its crest. The requirement to use site available earth means that the engineer must have an understanding of the properties and characteristics of all the myriad of soil types.

Although we already have several useful books on foundation engineering, there are very few books on the sister topics of earth-retaining structures and earth structures. Mitchell's text is an heroic attempt to satisfy the need for a viable book on earth structures. However, as the subject is vast, his attempt to cover both theory and applications has not been a total success.

The book opens with an interesting, though not entirely relevant chapter on aerial photograph interpretation - a subject clearly very dear to the author's heart. This is well written and informative; such information is rarely available outside the covers of specialist surveying textbooks. A second chapter covers in a very efficient and sensible way the essential soil mechanics required for the design of earth structures: strength, deformation and ground water. A third brief chapter is then devoted to embankments and tunnelling in soft grounds, a subject not out of place here as embankments generally begin tunnels.

The core of the book, however, is to be found in the last three chapters: on slope stability, earth dams and ground subsidence - each of which is a little gem, complete in its own way but leaving the reader wishing for more. Although the author might have written a very comprehensive textbook on each of these topics, the demand for such texts is strictly limited. However,

he has provided a very comprehensive reference section, which will enable the devotee to bury himself in the latest and most detailed information.

The material on slope stability makes particularly good reading, in that it introduces the reader to wedge analysis and earth flow analysis, fields usually neglected to permit authors to delve far too deeply into variations on the Bishop analysis. Earth dams - a vast area - are handled with commendable directness: for once an author has handled the foundation aspects as thoroughly as the dam structure itself. There is always a tendency to believe that the foundation for structures are someone else's problem: not a wise belief where dams are concerned. Finally, although the chapter on ground subsidence and mine backfill may seem out of place, it does cover material which a geotechnical engineer would need for purposes not related to earth structures and which is not readily available elsewhere.

One of the book's best features is the amount of very important descriptive material incorporated into tabular form. This makes comparisons of, for instance, field tests and laboratory tests quick and easy.

R. D. Mackey

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Familiar material

Clarendon and the English Revolution
by R. W. Harris
Clarendon & Windus, £30.00
ISBN 0 7101 2653 8

Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, was the barometer as well as the historian of the Great Rebellion.

Critic of Charles I's personal rule and an active supporter of reforming legislation during the first session of the Long Parliament, Hyde broke with Pym and dedicated himself to the king when he became fearful of the radical implications of further reform and suspicion of the parliamentary leadership. Hyde's career and his *History* as it is handled with admirable clarity. Occasionally Mr Harris brings a fresh perspective to well-known material from

the *Life and History*; we value the *History* not least because it is the record of a man who lived through the events he subsequently related. It is therefore with some enthusiasm that one opens the "first full biography" of Clarendon for nearly 150 years; especially as the author's declared purpose is "to go rather beyond the limits of biography in order to relate the career of the Earl of Clarendon to the world of thought and action in which he lived".

Unfortunately such enthusiasm is soon cooled. For Mr Harris's barometer narrative tells the familiar tale of civil war, interregnum and restoration from familiar material. It seldom strays, and seldom pauses for analysis and so progresses at a pace which must haffle the student or scholar. Some complicated episodes - the Restoration religious settlement or the factional politics behind the impeachment of Clarendon - are handled with admirable clarity. Occasionally Mr Harris brings a fresh perspective to well-known material from

writes more sensibly on Laud as an ecclesiastical than most other biographers of Pym as a desperate aggressor who manoeuvred to silence moderate voices is more convincing than other accounts rest upon too little research, and reveals insufficient familiarity with the work of historians such as John Morrill, Clive Holmes and William Lamont) who have illuminated civil war studies. The political judgments are often shaky; the necessary instability of faction, the inevitability of Restoration, the belief that, in the seventeenth century, the study of history bred tolerance are highly questionable.

Most seriously, Hyde himself is more often suffocated than elucidated by the narrative. Harris is vague and inconsistent on the chronology of Hyde's growing disquiet concerning Pym; there are unexplained ambiguities in the account of his reactions to the various treaty proposals of the 1640s and the royalist plot of the 1650s. Hyde's career is not a simple

relationship between Hyde's experiences and reactions and his later recollection and relation of them in the *History* - is seldom squarely tackled. As a result the question remains whether the consistency underlying Hyde's political values from the 1630s to the 1660s is the accurate account of his political vision and role in events, or the product of effective self-justification as well as a selective memory.

Mr Harris's biography, in other words, is a running commentary on Clarendon's *Life and History of the Great Rebellion* which are nowhere subject to anything but superficial criticism. Such a commentary can no substitute for the incisive analysis of Brian Wormald's earlier study, and it pales beside the felicitous prose of Clarendon's own account.

Kevin Sharpe

Kevin Sharpe is lecturer in history at the University of Southampton.



A sixteenth-century English woman, in plain but fashionable dress. This Holbein drawing, dating from around 1540, is taken from Jane Ashelford's volume on the sixteenth-century in Batsford's *Visual History of Costume* series. The book costs £9.95.

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BOOKS

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Brecht's prime movers

Brecht in Context
by John Willett
Methuen, £12.50
ISBN 0 413 50410 7

The main difference between the Soviet film industry and others is merely that it seems to operate without Hungarians.

(Chapter seven, "Brecht and the motion pictures") It would be hard to find a sentence that more completely epitomizes the tone of this loose-weave and colourful collection. Originally intended to be merely a selection of pieces already published by this joint editor of the English-language edition of the master and doyen of the Brecht industry, the book grew into something new and different. It is an attempt to encompass some of the major areas in which the information available has greatly expanded since John Willett wrote his pioneering *The Theatre of Bertolt Brecht* a quarter of a century ago: areas like Brecht and the Anglo-Saxon writers, Brecht and the motion pictures, the visual arts, the musicians, and so on.

His assured and undisputed part in the naturalizing of Brecht as an English writer, and therefore subsequently an international one, makes Willett himself a part of Brecht's "context".

Norway's success story

The Norwegian Economy 1920-1980
by Fritz Hodne
Croom Helm, £19.95
ISBN 0 312 57938 1

In many different ways Norway's economic development commands the attention not of the British reader only but of scholars everywhere. With a rate of growth of GNP in the troubled seventies of more than three per cent annually on top of high growth rates since the 1890s, this small, northerly, flatly-shaped land has actually become one of the world's richest countries and, perhaps the richest in Europe.

It has done so while being governed more unrelentingly by very Keynesian ideas which are now being everywhere rejected as inadequate than any other country. For twenty years after 1945 the Keynesian orthodoxies of the Labour Party were holy gospel and the opposition must have

The scope for autobiography is therefore broad, and the advantage taken of it frequently blurs the line of demarcation between the genres of critical essay and memoir. But this is not particularly disturbing in a book which blends an English view of its subject, an exploration of the Anglo-Saxon influences so formative for Brecht (and which Willett as a contemporary eye-witness is well equipped to deal with), and familiarity with the intricacies of Brecht's continental pedigree and involvements.

All of these strands are woven together with a combination of the apparently effortless ease of the English gentleman and the fierce commitment of the continental intellectual to a polemical position (for example in the section which summarizes the well-known challenge to Hannah Arendt's over-statement of Brecht's supposedly "positive" attitude to Stalin). The scholarly detective-work involved in tracing Brecht's indebtedness to Kipling, for example, is presented with a lightness of touch that penetrates academic Brechtians (for whom Willett has no time) could learn from. Indeed, much of the volume is concerned with "setting the record straight": for instance, the very involved and tangled story of Piscator's and Brecht's personal and professional dealings, especially once they had both arrived in America.

Above all, though, Willett comes at Brecht with the authentic enthusiasm of the theatre-lover, and the theorist (though he has some interesting things to say about "alienation"), and with a sensitive feel for Brecht's instinctive and refined artistic handling of his medium. Correspondingly, it is figures and names which on the whole dominate the narrative, not intellectual considerations. The artists with whom Brecht works are not just products of a particular time and place (although they are that, too), but prime movers, making things happen through personal interaction, as in that high-point represented by the collaboration of Grosz, Piscator and Brecht on a stage version of Hasek's irresistible classic,



Brecht by Rudolf Schlichter, 1928.

The Good Soldier Svejk.

At the same time, what emerges also is an impression of the smallness of the world inhabited by progressive European intellectuals. Paths cross time and again, whether in mid-Europe itself, or in Scandinavian, Soviet or American exile (incidentally, this book is a useful contribution to the subject of exile literature, currently becoming more fashionable in English-speaking circles). Inside this world there exists an even smaller one, the English version reflected in Willett's account of an occasion with a faintly Philby-Bluntish atmosphere, when he pursued his aim of involving Auden further in Brecht translation. He organized "a small and very good lunch party to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the St Edmund's School Literary Society - this being the preparatory school on the borders of Surrey

and Hampshire where Auden and C. Bradshaw Isherwood both went and I later followed - the society's founders having been himself, Harold Llewellyn-Smith and the headmaster's daughter, my dear godmother Winnie Morgan-Brown". It seems somehow right that Auden should have attended this little affair in his bedroom slippers. What would Brecht, the fiery continental focus of the meeting, have made of it all? No need to worry: the man in the cloth cap who took both the Un-American Activities Committee and the treacherous cultural politics of the early GDR in his stride would have had the right dialectic framework to hand.

Alan Bance

Alan Bance is professor of German at the University of Keele.

Rich in allusion

The Door of Purgatory: a study of multiple symbolism in Dante's "Purgatorio"
by Peter Armour
Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, £15.00
ISBN 0 19 815787 8

One of the turning-points in Dante's *Commedia* is the moment at which the protagonist enters the Kingdom of Heaven.

This occurs a quarter of the way through *Purgatorio* because the mountain of Purgatory, which is part of that Kingdom, is approached via Antepurgatory, which is not. When the central figure has seen all he needs to see of Antepurgatory, where certain categories of souls are obliged to wait for specified periods of time before being admitted to Purgatory proper, he finds that the entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven consists of a large, solid, door-like gate, like that of a medieval city, with a threshold that looks as if it is made of diamond, and three steps leading up to it, one white, one black and one red. Slitting on the top step is an angel-doorkeeper with a naked sword and two keys, which he explains he holds on behalf of St Peter. The pilgrim performs a rite of submission before the angel, who inscribes seven P's on his forehead with the point of his sword before allowing him to enter Purgatory.

The episode of the gate is preceded by an address to the reader calling attention to an elevation of both theme and artistry, which, with little controversy, has traditionally been taken by commentators, from the earliest to the most recent, to mean that the episode is an allegory of the Sacrament of Penance, with the angel as priest-confessor - and a singularly dull passage as a result. Dr Armour's primary purpose is to overturn the standard interpretation, and at the same time to show that the passage is not nearly so dull as is customarily thought, exhibiting instead a richness of vision that is in keeping with Dante's technique elsewhere in the poem.

While penitential associations are not excluded, the central pillar of the imagery is seen to be a figural relationship between the Church Militant on earth and the Church Suffering of Purgatory, and the angel, as representative of St Peter, becomes an ideal counterpart, the pope. The fact that the angel has only one sword adorns a polemical intention on Dante's part. The diamond threshold corresponds to the Rock of Peter, on which the earthly Church is built, while the keys are those of jurisdiction and ordination, the former serving specifically to lift the ban of excommunication when appropriate (in a sense all the souls in Antepurgatory are excommunicate). The three steps, hitherto understood as confession, contrition and satisfaction, are re-interpreted as stages in the soul's moral progress for entry to the Church Suffering: self-examination, awareness of sin, and the more complex and elevated state dominated by the ardour of love and the sense of the magnificent effects and example of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross" (page 32). The seven P's, previously seen as *peccata* (sins), are more obviously *plaghe* (wounds), and more importantly *poenae* (remedial punishments).

Out of this thesis Dr Armour evolves cogent speculations which enhance both the unity and the polysemy of the poem as a whole. With or without more opinionated extras, however, the book makes an authoritative and surely durable contribution to Dante scholarship. Its approach, which is described as "the joint method of logical deduction and association of images" (page 143), is nourished by an impressive and carefully-exploited knowledge of theology, liturgy and Church history.

These qualities make *The Door of Purgatory* essential reading for anyone who wishes to comprehend Dante's masterpiece, which, as a consequence, and to his advantage, will never be quite the same again.

John C. Barnes

John C. Barnes is head of the department of Italian at the University of Aberdeen.

BOOKS

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Beams of light

The Russian Novel from Pushkin to Pasternak
edited by John Garrard
Yale University Press, £25.00
ISBN 0 300 02935 7

The most valuable feature of this collection of essays is its honest scholarly tentativeness in approaching the question of the Russian novel's special character.

John Garrard provides a useful introductory chapter which rehearses many long-standing notions, particularly in regard to Lermontov's *A Hero of Our Time*, about the Russian novel's propensity for psychological finesse, philosophizing about the human condition and social criticism of contemporary reality. More original and controversial is Donald Fanger's inquiry into the resemblances between Pushkin's and Gogol's achievement in the novel, the multi-level treatment of themes discernible in both, the possible Tolstoyan connexion and the special, polemical affinity of Dostoevsky to this nascent process. Such an inquiry provokes thought, if not agreement. So does Edward Wasiolek's rather rhetorical evaluation of design in the Russian novel as related to a Russian concept of the universe.

As for the discussion of what is called the "high noon" of the subject, Kathryn Feuer offers a rewarding interpretation of *Fathers and Sons* which emphasizes the two themes of "man's deliverance to fate and chance" and of love between generations. Even more sharply focused is Patricia Carden's elegant and expressive discussion of the role of memory in *War and Peace*. It may not comprehend more than part of the Tolstoyan epic novel, but at least it is not quite as second-hand and partial in its treatment as is Robin Feuer Miller's discussion of Dostoevsky and the tale of terror (readers should turn to her study of *The Idiot* for a fuller awareness of the



Tolstoy

Gothic connexion).

Carol Anschutz's "Bely's *Petersburg* and the end of the Russian novel" overstates its case for a Nietzschean influence. By contrast, Victor Erlich's examination of Pilnyak's and Fedin's innovation novels of the 1920s is sober, informed and enriching. Homage to Bakhtin, acknowledged by nods from most of the contributors, with the occasional knee-jerk thrown in for good measure, becomes a display of pious devotion in Jurij Striedler's essay on the utopian novels *Adila*, *We* and *Chevergur*. However interesting it is to apply Bakhtin's ideas, it is equally

useful to be reminded by Michel Aucuttier of the contrast between his "progressive" critical approach and the aesthetic conservatism of Lukács, his applicability to Dostoevsky and the preference of Lukács for Tolstoy. As he remarks, "Bakhtin roots the novel in laughter, which is to say in the gratuitousness of play" and what one misses in so many of the essays gathered here is a sense of the fun, the vitality, as well as the visionary power, of the Russian novel.

The sense is there in the uncomplimentary description by George Gibian of the twofold processes at work in *Doctor Zhivago* whereby Pasternak in shedding his Jewishness articulated through his novel the vision of a new Russia. It treats the novel in terms which respect the novelist's right to speak in his own word in his own work. Politics has laid a dead hand upon literary criticism of the novel in the Soviet Union; in the West there is the danger that academic criticism will lay an equally deadening hand of Bakhtinian or similar theory on the visionary power and truthfulness of the Russian novel.

This collection is the result of an international symposium on the Russian novel held at Bellagio. It was no doubt a pleasant occasion, but it appears to have produced no cohesive approach to a literary phenomenon of such magnitude and lineage, nor can any work of this kind pretend to cover the subject properly if it omits any extended discussion of a major Dostoevsky novel, makes only passing references to *Anna Karenina*, ignores Goncharov, Leskov, Gorky and Sholokhov, and has nothing of consequence to say about the Soviet novel. When it fails to do so in terms of comprehensive treatment, it partly makes up for by directing beams of scholarly light at features of the architectural edifice of the subject. The student who chances upon this volume will consequently be dazzled by parts of it and thoroughly puzzled by others and may legitimately wonder what else he may read for greater edification. Apart from a highly selective and rather out-of-date review of English and American criticism of the Russian novel, the non-scholarly reader, at the end of the volume, will look for a comprehensive bibliography in vain.

Richard Freeborn

Richard Freeborn is professor of Russian literature at London University's School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

European socialism

Socialism and European Unity: the dilemma of the Left in Britain and France
by Michael Newman
Junction Books, £5.95
ISBN 0 86245 104 3

Dilemmas of Government: Britain and the European Community
by F. E. C. Gregory
Martin Robertson, £16.50 and £5.95
ISBN 0 85320 588 1 and 589 X

Michael Newman wishes to answer three questions. Why has European integration posed such problems for the Left in France and England? Why is there such a divergence between the current views of the Labour Party on integration and those of the dominant socialist forces in France? And finally: is there scope for an end to these divergences? To answer these questions he makes an historical survey first of French socialist and communist attitudes to European integration since the war, and then of the Labour Party's attitudes during the same period.

There have been many detailed accounts of the way British political parties have reacted to European integration and it cannot be said that Newman's survey of the Labour Party adds much to these, except in so far as he brings the story up to date with a chapter on the period from 1974 to 1981. His survey of the French Left is more interesting because of his extensive citations from sources that are not readily available, and because, once again, he brings the story up to date with an account of the confused but fascinating period of communist-socialist bargaining that took place between 1971 and 1974.

The weakness of the book lies in the lack of clear analytical distinctions and definitions, and the readiness of the author to slip into the loose terminology of party political polemics when making his assessments. His main concern, quite properly, is with the interconnections between socialism and nationalism, but he never stands back from his subject and provides a firm guide to what these terms mean, and where and in what sense they can be said to overlap and diverge. Instead the reader is plunged into the detail of history and then told at the end that the reason why socialists adopt nationalism from time to time, in order to bolster their purely socialist arguments against European integration, is that they have to appeal beyond the socialist electorate to other classes in order to get the necessary support to win. In other words nationalism, according to Newman, is a mere instrument used by socialists; there is nothing inherently nationalist in either their policies or their electorate.

This seems to me an oversimplified viewpoint that fails to face up to the real issues - issues that are indeed pointed up by some of the very texts that the author quotes in his historical survey. I am thinking in particular of the fact that socialist economic planning necessarily involves a closing or insulating of the national economy from "foreign" influences. It also seems unrealistic to assume that the "socialist electorate" is *ipso facto* untainted by nationalist sentiments.

Nationalism can of course be used in an instrumental way by socialist parties. The nationalism orchestrated by the French Communist Party in its opposition to the European Defence Community in 1953-54 is one example of this. But the peculiarity of this situation deserves greater emphasis than he gives it. To call it simply the use of nationalism to secure greater support for socialist policies is not enough. It was the special case of a party that was completely subservient to Moscow, pulling on all possible strings in order to secure the defeat of a measure that the Soviet Union bitterly

opposed.

The same kind of criticism may be levelled at Mr Newman's persistent suggestion that socialists who have favoured the process of European integration are not really being socialist at all, but are the dupes of what he refers to repeatedly as the "Establishment, the non-socialist elite, or 'established capitalist forces'". In the absence of any rigorous arguments about what "true socialism" is, these kind of assertions can hardly be said to carry much academic weight.

Frank Gregory's work provides a modest, workmanlike survey of the various threads, organizational and legal, that bind this country's governmental machinery with the European Community's institutions. In Brussels, there is a detailed account of the way the House of Commons and the House of Lords treat Community matters, and of how Whitehall has adjusted to Community membership. Further chapters describe the selection and role of British members of the Commission and of the European Parliament, and the way that Britain has influenced the evolution of certain Community policies. Throughout the book the Community is seen very much as an outwork of the British governmental system, the addition of "a further range of complications to the already complex process of policy-making", as one commentator, quoted by Gregory, puts it.

Despite its title *Dilemmas of Government* is basically a factual compendium. The author tends to discuss problems by the collation and citation of "authorities" rather than by any independent probing or analysis. This gives the work a rather pedestrian character. Nevertheless, students, civil servants, and possibly even Members of Parliament will find it useful as a work of reference.

Murray Forsyth

Murray Forsyth is reader in international politics at the University of Leicester.

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BOOKS

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Death wish

Kleist: a biography

by Joachim Maass

translated by Ralph Manheim

Secker & Warburg, £12.95

ISBN 0 436 27000 5

This lively and well translated biography of Heinrich von Kleist (1777-1811) supplies a full introduction for English-speaking readers to one of Germany's most remarkable writers. It includes summary interpretations of the plays and stories, but the emphasis is very much on the writer's life. This is by no means unwelcome, since the existing literature in English consists mainly of specialized studies of selected works. Yet Kleist's short life is extraordinary enough in its own right, and it furnishes an essential commentary on his entire creative output.

Like Hölderlin and Büchner, Kleist is a poet of radical insecurity, an outsider who has been fully recognized only in the present century. But his disjointed world is not illuminated by Hölderlin's radiant myths or by Büchner's revolutionary fervour: in its fundamental uncertainty it anticipates that of Kafka, with whose personal life that of Kleist has some striking similarities.

Kleist's troubles began when he broke with the family tradition of Prussian military service in favour of a literary career, and became financially dependent on his artistic aspirations. Then his engagement went disastrously wrong, for he could not bring himself to marry: although women were fascinated by him, some psychological obstacle seems to have denied him sexual fulfilment. The retreat from marriage was followed by an existential crisis. His faith in rationalism, on which he had constructed a "life-plan" for himself and an elaborate scheme of self-improvement for his fiancée, collapsed after a study of Kant's philosophy leaving him in total spiritual uncertainty. His aimless travels brought him no nearer to security either, for he lived in troubled times: a Rousseauistic plan for a peasant existence in Switzerland was foiled by Napoleon's armies, whose path Kleist repeatedly crossed, On



A chalk drawing of Kleist, after a portrait by Friedel painted in 1801, when Kleist was 23.

several occasions he was suspected of espionage, and he was once arrested and interned in France. His career as a writer was also fraught with disappointment. An unfortunate clash with Goethe ruined his prospects as a dramatist, and even in the Romantic circles which he frequented, he always remained on the fringes. It is scarcely surprising that flight and psychosomatic illness became regular features of his life.

Kleist once said that he wished to produce only three things: "a child, a beautiful poem, and a great deed". The first was not to be, and his literary masterpieces were virtually ignored in his lifetime. But in his self-imposed death, he performed a deed which, like that of Chatterton, became the chief basis of his fame - or notoriety - for years to come. As described in this biography, his spectacular suicide pact with the terminally ill Henriette Vogel, planned down to the last detail and implemented in a mood of joyous abandon, seems, like the death of the hero in Goethe's *Werther*, to cast its shadow back over his whole life and to constitute its ultimate fulfilment.

Certainly, the death-wish had been with him since his early years, and it is tempting for the biographer to see in it the rationale of his existence. Nevertheless, Kleist's reputation today rests not on his death, but on his plays and stories, and one misses some general discussion of his artistry. Joachim Maass sticks to the biographer's role, and simply identifies recurrent themes as they arise in separate works: Kleist's tragic

world-view, his love of paradox and sensational situations, the emotional confusion and identity-crises of his characters, his obsession with justice and with moral absolutes - all of which preoccupations are intimately related to his own experience. It would not have been difficult to comment at least on the stories as a whole, for these adhere broadly to a single formula: a drastic opening situation is analysed through its consequences with remorseless detachment. The plays present more of a challenge, for their diversity is astonishing: Kleist tried his hand at antique tragedy, historical drama, Romantic spectacle, patriotic celebration, comedy of common life, and more besides. What, if any, stylistic features do all these have in common?

Kleist deserves to be better known outside Germany, and this vivid biography should help considerably. The complete stories are available in the Penguin Classics series, and the film version of *The Marquise of O...* is justly famous. But not all of the plays have been translated, and only *Penthesilea* and *Prince Frederick of Homburg* are at all familiar. A collected English edition of the plays, and a new critical study of the works as a whole would at last make Kleist fully accessible to the English-speaking world.

H. B. Nisbet

H. B. Nisbet is professor of Modern Languages (German) at the University of Cambridge and fellow of Sidney Sussex College.

War in context

War and Society in Europe

by Brian Bond

Leicester University Press and

Pontana, £12.00 and £3.50

ISBN 0 7185 1227 8 and 00 635547 1

It was always clear, to those welcoming the appearance of the early volumes of the 'Pontana History of European War and Society' series, that the hardest task of all awaited the author who had to deal with this topic over the last hundred years.

In the first place, many of the book's readers would be imbued with their own memories of the Second World War and of national service, or swayed by strong feelings concerning nuclear weapons - and thus be subjectively responsive in a manner not possible when dealing with (say) Napoleonic warfare. Secondly, the amount of raw statistical data, parliamentary reports, official histories, memoirs and secondary literature has risen exponentially during the past century of bureaucratization and 'massification'.

Finally, this same period has also witnessed the rise of 'total war', which poses its own particular difficulties for the historian. Not only could this term imply the need for an analysis of an entire society as affected by, and in relation to, its war, which in turn demands a work of almost unmanageable complexity and dimensions. But the author would also have to grapple with the awkward fact that while two world wars, 'total wars',

have occurred in this century, the periods 1870-1914, 1919-1939 and 1945-1970 were largely characterized by peace, demobilization, the assertion of civilian values and spending priorities, and the marginalization of military affairs. Most of European society, for most of the time, was not significantly affected by war. How does one deal with this discontinuity?

While all this suggests that a 220-page book on *War and Society in Europe, 1870-1970* which would be comprehensive and fully satisfactory in all respects is simply not possible, it has to be said that Brian Bond has done extremely well. In large part, this success is due to his clear and concise prose. Whether he is discussing the activities of the patriotic leagues before 1914, or preparing the public mind for war, or recounting the economic aspects of Hitler's *Blitzkrieg* strategy three decades later, Mr Bond is always lucid, judicious, and interesting.

To be sure, this conciseness is achieved at some cost. Given his own expertise in military history, Mr Bond is at his best in dealing with strategy and war planning, the impact of technology upon warfare, civil-military relations, and the general political debate in Europe about the armed services and their roles. In short, this is rather more of a book about 'war and society' in the broader, sociological sense used in some of Arthur Marwick's works. Students seeking a detailed discussion of (say) the impact of the First World War upon women, or upon diet or religion or domestic service, and scholars curious about how the different European nations financed their wars, will not find much here. Nor is there much, curiously enough, on the sociological compo-

sition of the armed services themselves, an area in which there are now many studies and almost too many statistical tables. The aristocratic element in the Prussian officer corps naturally gets mentioned, but this question of 'who joined the army' (let alone the navy, or the air force) is not pursued in any sustained way in later chapters.

What we do have, instead, is an excellent, concise account of how the nature of armed conflict changed under the impact of new weapons (machine-guns, aircraft); how the creation of mass armies impinged not only upon the conduct of battles but also upon the political leaders who had to persuade their own peoples to supply the necessary manpower and material resources; how war was regarded and debated (was it a good or a bad thing? would it be over in six weeks, or last for years? were some actions wrong?) from Moltke's time to Eisenhower's; and how, finally, such concerns have been amended in part by the advent of nuclear weapons.

In its paperback form, especially, *War and Society in Europe 1870-1970* should prove to be an immensely successful teaching tool for a whole range of courses in modern history. While not fully comprehensive because of its modest size and its author's predilections, it is none the less a good starting-point for anyone interested in knowing more about the development and impact of war in Europe during the past century. Not for the first time, Brian Bond has placed fellow historians and teachers in his debt.

Paul Kennedy

Paul Kennedy is Dillworth Professor of History at Yale University.

BOOKS

EUROPEAN STUDIES

Age-old instincts

The Theatre of Valle-Inclán

by John Lyon

Cambridge University Press, £20.00

ISBN 0 521 24493 5

Ramón del Valle-Inclán (1866-1936) is in importance and originality second only to Lorca in twentieth-century Spanish literature, and yet, internationally, his work is barely known. That John Lyon's full-length study of his theatre is the first in English is comment enough on insular attitudes, and will, I hope, stimulate interest in this brilliant dramatist.

As Lyon's introduction suggests, Valle rejected totally the Spanish commercial theatre of his time: a largely naturalistic theatre characterized by bourgeois attitudes, psychological realism, a well-made plot and elegant dialogue, and rooted, of course, in particularized time and place. His fervent embracing of symbolism phi-

lophy, with its emphasis on timeless truths, led him, as it did Maeterlinck, Synge and Yeats, to a concern in his drama with universal issues and to the formulation of a style which aimed at symbolic suggestion through a close integration of setting, costume, movement, lighting and language.

Lyon traces the evolution of Valle's theatre and emphasizes quite correctly his constant concern with "essentiality". Broadly speaking, his view of the world embraced both the heroic and the grotesque, the former expressed in his early *Comedias bárbaras* - *Águila de hielos* (1907) and *Romancero de lobos* (1908) - the latter in the *esperpentos* written after 1920. Two chapters - "The hero and his chorus" - "The metamorphoses of the *esperpento*" - focus on the polarization of these two extremes and are the most interesting in the book.

The *Comedias bárbaras* broke with Spanish dramatic convention in every sense. They express through their characters those Galician attitudes, feelings, beliefs and traditions that are simultaneous, contemporary and timeless - the collective experience of a region and, by extension, a nation. The cosmic perspective of the plays and the sense of man heroically expressing age-old forces and instincts are, as Lyon shows, communicated by a technique which emphasizes the archetypal and the stylized and which, in its impact upon the audience, appeals less to the mind than to the eye, the ear and the imagination. It was inevitable, given the unorthodox

and ambitious nature of Valle's aim and method, that he wrote these plays not for the theatre of his day but, in Lyon's words, for "a theatre of his mind".

The *esperpentos*, foreshadowed in a transitional phase from 1910 to 1920, present man no longer seen heroically through a magnifying lens, but, in Valle's phrase, "in a context of horror which renders him distorted and thus grotesque". Lyon traces the evolution of this new perspective of man as puppet, manipulated by the society in which he lives, from *Luz de bohemia* (1920), where vestiges of tragedy remain, to the grotesque and absurd vision of *Los cuernos de don Friolera* (1921) and the later shorter plays. In a sense the *esperpentos* suggest a greater social dimension, for Valle's characters are the victims of contemporary Spanish social values, but more importantly they reveal in theme and technique his constant preoccupation with essential man and timeless issues.

If a criticism can be made of Lyon's important study, it is that he is often over-concerned with contradicting, questioning or dismissing the views of other critics. In consequence, his preoccupation with Valle's theatre, as theatre and with exhaustive analysis of method and technique is not as central or as sustained as it might otherwise be.

Gwynne Edwards

Gwynne Edwards is professor of Spanish at University College, Aberystwyth.

Religious patterns

Ritual, Myth and Magic in Early

Modern Europe

by William Monter

Harvester Press, £18.95

ISBN 0 7108 0358 3

In this brief but intriguing book, William Monter attempts the ambitious task of surveying religious developments between 1500 and 1750 over the broad geographical sweep of northern, Mediterranean and eastern Europe and in the American colonies.

Essentially he discusses the impact of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, the attempt to transplant Christianity into the New World, Jewish-Christian relations and the growing attack on "superstition" and intolerance in the run up to the Enlightenment. The major threads running throughout the discussion are the persistence of much pre-Reformation religion into the new age, the struggle of both Reformation and Counter-Reformation to win popular acceptance, and their rather different attacks on "superstition", popular magic and witchcraft. Each of the nine short chapters is a small gem of mastery condensation, lucidly summing up recent scholarship, drawing out common patterns in time and space, and carefully singling out regional and/or ideological differences. The overall effect is of a brilliantly condensed survey of religion in early modern Europe.

Yet the book is curiously unsatisfying. The dustjacket promises an iconoclastic overturning of accepted views about the period, but the central argument that it was an age of religious intolerance scarcely needs to be demonstrated. That the Inquisition was more differentiated regionally and not as black as it was once painted; that England was neither as tolerant nor as latitudinarian as we used to believe; that the "Age of Reason" was not as tolerant or open-minded as it is claimed are all far from new conclusions. On another major theme, the attack by Protestant, Catholic and philosopher on "superstition", Monter certainly provides some fascinating material, but he leaves the problem of just what "superstition" was strangely undefined, as he does the question of how it was related to that other problematical phenomenon, "popular religion". Indeed, Monter begs the question on latter, speaking of "deformation" of popular religion around 1500, without showing what an undeformed version would be like.

There is also a curious disjunction between the book's title and its main themes. There is virtually nothing on myth; indeed, two major myths of the period, the Joachimist "age of the world" which influenced even Luther, and the millenium in its various forms

are not mentioned. There is very little on ritual, especially the implications and consequences of Reformation anti-ritualism (although Monter does suggest that anti-ritualism proved impossible to sustain). There is too little on the popular uses of magic, as there is on the problem of how any firm line could be drawn between Catholic ritual practice and popular conceptions of magic. There is an interesting suggestion of a link between attitudes towards magic and treatment of non-conformity which deserves to be more fully developed.

The book does provide many valuable insights and conclusions. Monter shows that the Reformation was neither as monolithic nor as successful as commonly assumed, and that there was a good deal of Catholic-Protestant syncretism. He points to the role of state control of religion as an intrinsic, almost defining characteristic of the

Reformation. He is excellent on his discussion of witch persecutions, both their upsurge and decline, and usefully suggestive on the importance of Cartesian thought for the growth of religious scepticism. In the long run, the book's weaknesses arise from the fact that it is just too ambitious for its modest size. One wishes Monter had allowed himself the space to expand more fully many of the issues he so skillfully summarizes. The book is rich with good ideas which deserve more extensive discussion. None the less, it is a valuable introductory essay, which will stimulate much further thought and debate, though it is rather limited for the latter purpose by the absence of a good general bibliography.

R. W. Scribner

R. W. Scribner is a fellow of Clare College, Cambridge.

Respected, not loved

The German Democratic Republic since 1945

by Martin McCauley

Macmillan, £25.00

ISBN 0 333 26219 0

Although the German Democratic Republic is the most recent industrial state in the Warsaw Pact, it is still relatively unknown in Britain. A West German, appropriately, a whole ministry is engaged in studying it and there is, in addition, an army of academics researching it. British GDR-watchers benefit from this research but have comparatively meagre resources. However, East Germans are likely to speak more freely to British visitors, not fearing that they are either from the GDR state security service or from a West German intelligence agency. Some will feel more able to let loose their material shortages of life in Honecker's Germany to foreigners than they would to their sometimes intimidatingly prosperous relatives from West Germany. Martin McCauley has the additional advantage of knowing Soviet society, having published several studies of the Soviet Union.

In this, his second book on the GDR, Dr McCauley gives a fair and competent account of the development of the Soviet Zone and its transformation under Ulbricht and Honecker into the GDR of today. For a brief period in the mid-1960s the GDR appeared on the way to high living standards and, if not socialism with a human face, then at least to socialism with a more human face than most of its allies. What happened? Dr McCauley believes:

On the economic and social plane the GDR has achieved great success; in all other respects, however, performance

has been disappointing. Despite her achievements the GDR has not proved a magnet for other states. Very few of the two million unemployed in West Germany actually wish to move there to take up a job. The GDR is respected but not loved. Few would doubt that is roughly correct. McCauley puts into perspective some of the more exaggerated claims of achievements in the GDR. On the place of women, for instance, he writes: "Women are breaking out of their traditional occupations but are failing to acquire decisive positions. To some extent some of the old employment patterns are re-establishing themselves. McCauley shatters the self-image of the GDR as a leading industrial innovator by reminding us that 'only about 10 per cent of GDR research and development is up to world standards'."

What can the East Germans expect from the next decade? Martin McCauley concludes: "As a resource-poor country the GDR must expect more to import the same quality... the dimming of self-confidence in a bright future has led to a rise in the influence of the military-security complex. Defence expenditure is now rising at about double the rate of national income growth and the bill for security is also mounting. Along with this has gone a militarization of society, especially of youth" (page 93). This is, unfortunately, a sound judgement. However, since Dr McCauley finished his manuscript there has been a great increase in visible, but secret, diplomacy between Bonn and East Berlin (Herr Strauss being the best-known West German visitor to Honecker's court in the last few months). One hopes that some kind of deal will yet be struck to the advantage of the *deutsche Volk* and therefore the rest of us as well.

David Childs

David Childs is reader in politics at the University of Nottingham.

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Applications are invited

Applications are invited for this position within the Faculty of Humanities, which becomes vacant as a

with administrative responsibility for it and will be expected to guide and coordinate research activities.

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Appointment will be made within the Professional salary range of

Association of Commonwealth Universities (Apptel), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, or from the Registrar of the University with whom applications close on 30 March 1984. (11)

**SENIOR LECTURER
OCCUPATIONAL
HYGIENE**

Applicants must be college graduates and graduates, preferably in one of the physical sciences. Although applicants with backgrounds in medicine, toxicology, etc. will also be considered.

The appointee must hold a recognized professional qualification in occupational hygiene and qualifications leading to professional registration in an appropriate occupational hygiene society and have at least one year relevant experience. A higher degree is desirable.

Salary: \$42,390 to \$45,390

The position will be for an initial term of four years, during which there will be a review for continuing tenure.

Applications (quoting reference number 84/01) should include a full curriculum vitae.

and the names and addresses of three referees and should be sent to the Personal Branch, Deakin University, Victoria, Australia 3212, by 30 March 1984. Applicants resident in North America and Europe should send an additional copy of their applications to the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Acpus), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, from whom further information is available. H2

Bradford
LECTURESHIP IN
ELECTRICAL AND
ELECTRONIC
ENGINEERING
Applications are invited

(Personnel) of the University of Adelaide, GPO Box 498, Adelaide, South Australia 5000. Tel: (08) 336 1111. FAX: (08) 336 1111. Telex: UNIVAD 5000. Please send your resume to the above address. The closing date for applications is 31 March 1984.

The University reserves the right to make an appointment or to appoint by invitation.

R1

University of Glasgow
TEMPORARY
LECTURESHIP IN
POLITICS

Applications are invited for a temporary Lecturer in Politics, to be held from 1st January, 1984 to 30th June, 1988. The person appointed will be expected to teach and supervise research students. Further particulars regarding the Post, salary, pension, etc., may be obtained from the Director of Studies, University of Glasgow, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DE.

Applicants should send their applications, together with a curriculum vitae, to the Director of Studies, University of Glasgow, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DE. Closing date as soon as possible. H

The University of
Sheffield
WEST RIDING CHAIR
EMERSON

will be expected to teach in the Department of Government and the economy course on Policy-making in India. He will be expected to teach in the Department of Government and the economy course on Policy-making in India. He will be expected to teach in the Department of Government and the economy course on Policy-making in India.

Salary will be ₹7,190 on the Lecturers' salary scale.

Applications with three copies of the curriculum vitae, signed by the Secretary of the Department of Political Science, Government of Madras, should be sent to the Secretary of the Department of Political Science, Government of Madras, by and before 15.12.1984.

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DATE 06-18-2009 BY 60322 UCBAW/BJS

Fellowships

University of Oxford
Wolfson College
STIPENDIARY
JUNIOR RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP IN
CHINESE STUDIES

The College proposes to elect a Junior Research Fellow in Chinese Studies for three years from 1 October 1984. Applications are invited from men and women, preferably under 30, with at least two years' research experience in the subject. The annual stipend will be £5,188 plus an allowance for research expenses. The closing date for applications is 28 March 1984. Further particulars are obtainable from the Fellowships Secretary, H3.

University of Oxford
Lady Margaret Hall
ROLLS ROYCE
RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP

The College invites applications for a Rolls Royce Research Fellowship, tenable for three years from 1 October 1984 or possibly later in the field of interest in Rolls Royce Limited (Aero Division).

Applicants (men or women) should normally be in the age range 24-35 and of post-doctoral standing. However, candidates in the final year of a doctorate will be considered. Salary, on the University scale, will be £7,190 at age 24, rising to £10,250 at age 35 (subject to review). Please send curriculum vitae, references and a letter of application to the Fellowships Secretary, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford OX2 0QA. Closing date, 28 March 1984. H3

The University of Manchester
Manchester Business School
RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIPS (4)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for four research fellowships for three years, to be arranged in the areas of: Finance, Marketing, Management, and Operations. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the current activities of the school and to contribute to its research programme. The salary will be £7,190 at age 24, rising to £10,250 at age 35 (subject to review). Please send curriculum vitae, references and a letter of application to the Fellowships Secretary, Manchester Business School, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Closing date, 28 March 1984. H3

University of Exeter
POSTDOCTORAL
RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for two postdoctoral research fellowships for three years, to be arranged in the areas of: Finance, Marketing, Management, and Operations. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the current activities of the school and to contribute to its research programme. The salary will be £7,190 at age 24, rising to £10,250 at age 35 (subject to review). Please send curriculum vitae, references and a letter of application to the Fellowships Secretary, University of Exeter, EX4 4JF. Closing date, 28 March 1984. H3

The salary will be £7,190 at age 24, rising to £10,250 at age 35 (subject to review). Please send curriculum vitae, references and a letter of application to the Fellowships Secretary, University of Exeter, EX4 4JF. Closing date, 28 March 1984. H3

University of St Andrews
GIFFORD
RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited for the following award, tenable in the field of Natural Theology and Philosophy. The successful candidate will receive a stipend of £5,188 per annum, plus an allowance for research expenses. The closing date for applications is 28 March 1984. Further particulars are obtainable from the Fellowships Secretary, H3.

The appointments will commence 1 October 1984. Applications, not later than 28 February 1984, with curriculum vitae and names of two referees to the Secretary of the University, College Gate, St Andrews, Scotland, from whom further particulars are available. H3

University of Oxford
Worcester College
JUNIOR RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIPS

The College proposes to elect up to three non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellows to hold research fellowships for three years from 1 October 1984. The Fellows will be expected to participate in the current activities of the college and to contribute to its research programme. The salary will be £7,190 at age 24, rising to £10,250 at age 35 (subject to review). Please send curriculum vitae, references and a letter of application to the Fellowships Secretary, Worcester College, Oxford OX2 0QA. Closing date, 28 March 1984. H3

University of Oxford
Wolfson College
NON-STIPENDIARY
JUNIOR RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIPS

The College proposes to elect up to three non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellows to hold research fellowships for three years from 1 October 1984. The Fellows will be expected to participate in the current activities of the college and to contribute to its research programme. The salary will be £7,190 at age 24, rising to £10,250 at age 35 (subject to review). Please send curriculum vitae, references and a letter of application to the Fellowships Secretary, Wolfson College, Oxford OX2 0QA. Closing date, 28 March 1984. H3

University of Oxford
Lincoln College
NUFFIELD
RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP IN
MEDICAL SCIENCES

The College invites applications for a Nuffield Research Fellowship in Medical Sciences, tenable for three years from 1 October 1984. The successful candidate will receive a stipend of £5,188 per annum, plus an allowance for research expenses. The closing date for applications is 28 March 1984. Further particulars are obtainable from the Fellowships Secretary, Lincoln College, Oxford OX2 0QA. Closing date, 28 March 1984. H3

Polytechnics

Bristol Polytechnic
Business Studies
RESEARCH
ASSISTANT -
WOMEN IN
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME - Ref
No R/172

A Research Assistant is required to contribute to a programme of research and training activities concerned with women in management. The appointed will work on a project focused on the commitment of employers to management development for women employees.

Candidates should, preferably, have a degree in one of the behavioural sciences, some research experience and an interest in action research and qualitative methodology. An understanding of issues relating to women in management is essential.

The appointment will be for six months.

For informal preliminary discussions, telephone 0272 856251, Ext 270.

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Colston Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, OX2 0QA. Ext 210 or 217.

Please quote Reference Number 172 in all communications. H3

LIVERPOOL POLYTECHNIC
Department of Mechanical, Marine and Production
Engineering
(Manufacturing Systems Division)Lecturer II/
Senior Lecturer
£7,215-£13,443 per annum

Applications are invited from graduates who can offer one of the following specialisms and teach to degree level: Production Organisation, Production Technology, CAD/CAM. Other related specialisms. Research/Industrial experience an advantage. Appointment from 1st April 1984 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Please quote Reference No. LPI622. Closing date: 24th February, 1984. Informal queries may be made to Professor W. B. Rowe or Dr A. Boyle. Tel: 051-207 3581, Ext. 2017 and 2018 respectively. Application forms and further particulars from the Personnel Office, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5UX, Tel: 207 3581, Ext. 2518. (14089)

NORTH STAFFS POLY
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF
MANAGEMENT STUDIES AND
HEAD OF THE WEST MIDLANDS
REGIONAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Applications are invited from well qualified and experienced candidates for this important post which will involve giving innovative leadership to the Department of Management Studies as well as heading the West Midlands Regional Management Centre. No particular area of specialisation will be preferred but it will be essential for the successful candidate to have demonstrated a clear capability to discharge the responsibilities of this joint role involving the rigorous development of courses and other contributions to the needs of the region.

Salary: Head of Department Burnham Grade V plus Midlands Regional Management Centre Allowance. (Currently £16,800-£17,001 plus £1,128)

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Office, North Staffordshire Polytechnic, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE. Tel: (0782) 48351, Ext. 207. Closing date for applications: 27th February, 1984.

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Colston Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, OX2 0QA. Ext 210 or 217.

Oxford Polytechnic
Faculty of Educational
Studies
LECTURER II/
SENIOR LECTURER

The person appointed will be expected to have appropriate recent experience of primary education as well as a research interest in social psychology related especially to school experience.

Salary scale £7,215-£13,443. Closing date 24th February, 1984. Ref: ED7/P1R

LECTURER II/
SENIOR LECTURER

The person appointed will be expected to have appropriate recent experience of primary education as well as a research interest in the Curriculum and the Humanities.

Salary scale £7,215-£13,443. Closing date 7th March, 1984. Ref: ED6 (P).

Application forms and further details of the above posts may be obtained from Mrs Williams, Staffing, Oxford Polytechnic, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0BP. Tel: 04777, ext. 364. H3

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Colston Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, OX2 0QA. Ext 210 or 217.

Please quote Reference Number 172 in all communications. H3

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Colston Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, OX2 0QA. Ext 210 or 217.

Newcastle Upon Tyne
Polytechnic
School of Mathematics,
Statistics and Computing
LECTURER II OR
SENIOR LECTURER
IN COMPUTING

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates to join a team teaching on a wide range of degree and diploma courses. Candidates should be able to teach computing at degree and diploma level. Preference will be given to well qualified candidates with research or development experience in at least one of the following areas:

Information Systems, Network and Distributed Systems, Real Time Systems, Expert Systems.

This post is tenable from January 1984 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Burnham FF: Lecturer II £7,215-£13,443 per annum. Lecturer £10,655-£13,443 (part) £13,443 per annum. For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Newcastle Upon Tyne Polytechnic, Leazes Road, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear NE4 7BE. Tel: 091-273 5551, Ext. 2503. H3

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Colston Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, OX2 0QA. Ext 210 or 217.

Please quote Reference No. LPI622. Closing date: 24th February, 1984. Informal queries may be made to Professor W. B. Rowe or Dr A. Boyle. Tel: 051-207 3581, Ext. 2017 and 2018 respectively. Application forms and further particulars from the Personnel Office, Rodney House, 70 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5UX, Tel: 207 3581, Ext. 2518. (14089)

ROBERT GORDON'S INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY, ABERDEEN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL STUDIES
SENIOR LECTURER/
LECTURER

In Public Administration with competence to teach related Economics.

To teach primarily to degree level courses. A research interest in Health Administration/Economics is desirable.

Salary ranges (under review): SENIOR LECTURER £12,228-£15,411 per annum LECTURER £8,313-£13,125 per annum. Assistance with removal expenses. Details from Secretary, Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, AB9 1FR. (0224 633611) (14089)

Bristol Polytechnic
Construction
Environmental Health
Department
PART-TIME
RESEARCH
ASSISTANT - COST
AND RESOURCE
MODELLING - Ref
No R/173

A Research Assistant is required to assist in the development of a computer model for the construction industry with major resource constraints on a 24 day per week basis until the end of August 1984.

The post would be suitable for graduates in Mathematics, Computing, Building Engineering, or Civil Engineering. The ability to write computer software suitable for industrial projects is essential. Previous experience in the construction industry is desirable, but not essential.

Salary Scale: pro rata £5,188-£13,443 per annum. For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Colston Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, OX2 0QA. Ext 210 or 217.

Please quote Reference Number 173 in all communications. H3

Leicester Polytechnic
POST IN
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Leicester Polytechnic is one of a select group of Polytechnics developing innovative computer technology, defined as a combination of computing and communications systems.

PRINCIPAL
LECTURER Post 210

Salary Scale: £11,515-£13,443 (part) £13,443 per annum. This key post offers an excellent opportunity for a graduate with a degree in Information Technology to develop the post in the candidates interests.

A degree in Engineering/Science/Computer Science/Mathematics, together with suitable research or industrial experience in the area of computer systems, data communications, office automation, or any other aspect of I.T. application of computer technology appropriate to the candidates interests.

LECTURER II
COMMUNICATION
SYSTEMS Post 88

Salary Scale: £7,215-£11,515 per annum. This post offers a young graduate with some industrial or commercial experience an opportunity to develop the post in the candidates interests.

A degree in Engineering/Science/Computer Science/Mathematics, together with suitable research or industrial experience in the area of computer systems, data communications, office automation, or any other aspect of I.T. application of computer technology appropriate to the candidates interests.

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 117, Leicester, LE1 7RH. Tel: 0533 551551 ext. 2503. H3

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Bristol Polytechnic, Colston Lane, Frenchay, Bristol, OX2 0QA. Ext 210 or 217.

Colleges and Institutes of Technology

Lothian Regional Council
NAPIER COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
AND TECHNOLOGY
LECTURER A IN
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Salary on Scale: £8,313-£12,228 (Bar)-£13,125

Required in the Department of Mechanical Engineering to contribute to the teaching and development of the BSc Energy Engineering degree and lead research in an energy related area. Candidates should possess an Honours or Postgraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering or related discipline and have recent industrial and/or research experience. Application forms and further particulars from: The Administrative Officer (Personnel), Napier College of Commerce and Technology, Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH10 8DT. Tel: 031 447 7070 (14089)

DUNDEE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering
SENIOR LECTURESHP

Applicants should possess a good honours degree in electrical and/or electronic engineering or a related discipline, and preferably a higher degree, together with appropriate industrial and/or research experience. The person appointed will be required to teach up to honours degree level and will be expected to initiate and lead research activities in his/her specialism and develop further links with industry. The specialism could be in one of the following areas: digital systems, digital communications, power electronics or solid state electronics. Salary scale: £12,228/£13,572 (bar)-£15,411 with initial placing depending upon approved previous experience. Financial assistance towards the cost of removal expenses may be payable.

Further particulars and application forms obtainable from the Personnel Officer, Dundee College of Technology, Bell Street, Dundee DD1 1HG to whom completed forms should be returned by 2nd March, 1984. (14089)

SALFORD COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
Required as soon as possibleSENIOR LECTURER
IN THREE
DIMENSIONAL DESIGN
to develop the B/TEC Higher National Diploma
Course in Exhibition/Shopfitting Design.
(Previous applicants need not re-apply).

Salary - £10,683-£13,443. Further particulars and application forms available from the Principal, Salford College of Technology, Frederick Road, Salford M6 6PU. Tel: 061 736 6541. (14083)

Colleges of Further Education

London
College
Idea of
FurnitureHEAD OF DEPARTMENT
OF MUSICAL
INSTRUMENT
TECHNOLOGY
(BURNHAM GRADE IV)

Applications are invited for the above post.

The position demands an appropriately qualified person in the field of music and instrument making, coupled to organisational ability and an understanding of the developments in further and higher education.

The College's Department of Musical Instrument Technology has become a unique establishment, offering an expanding range of advanced and non-advanced courses in instrument making validated by BTEC and the City and Guilds.

Salary: On an incremental scale within the range of £14,148-£15,849 plus £287 Inner London Allowance. Further details and application forms are available from The Clerk to the Governors at the College: LONDON COLLEGE OF FURNITURE, 1471 Commercial Road, London E1 1LA. Tel: 01-247 1063 (14079)

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 117, Leicester, LE1 7RH. Tel: 0533 551551 ext. 2503. H3

Colleges of
Further Education
contEssex County Council
Chelmer Institute of
Higher Education
HEAD OF STUDENT
SERVICES
(PRINCIPAL
LECTURER)

The vacancy arises from the promotion of the present holder to the post of Assistant Director in the Institute. Existing holders include counselling, welfare, careers, accommodation, sports and recreational services.

Salary: £12,519-£15,411 (Bar at £15,935) per annum.

Application form and further details available from the Principal, Administrative Officer, Chelmer Institute of Higher Education, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, CM1 1LE to whom applications should be returned by 14th February 1984. Telephone 0464 554491 x1124. H3

Colleges of Higher Education

Athrofa Gogledd-dd Cymru
The North Wales Institute
of higher educationCLWYD
HEALTH
AUTHORITYPRINCIPAL LECTURER
IN NURSING STUDIES

Applications are invited from graduate nurses for this post which is a joint appointment by Clwyd Area Health Authority, Gwynedd Area Health Authority and The North East Wales Institute of Higher Education. The successful applicant will have responsibilities for continuing the development of advanced nurse education within The North East Wales Institute of Higher Education and within Clwyd and Gwynedd Area Health Authorities. The post will be based at Caerllew, Wrexham, Clwyd, but considerable travel to other locations will be involved. Informal telephone enquiries may be made to Mr J. G. Jones, Tel: Wrexham 559221.

Further details and application form available from the Director of Management Services, The North East Wales Institute, Deeside, Clwyd. Tel: Deeside 017631, Ext. 271. Closing date for receipt of applications 10th February, 1984. (14182)

BULMERSHE COLLEGE OF
HIGHER EDUCATIONDIRECTOR OF
CONTINUING EDUCATION
(Burnham Head of Department Grade 6)

To be responsible for an extensive programme of in-service education.

The Director is one of a senior team of four responsible for the College's academic programmes.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from: The Deputy Principal, Bulmershe College of Higher Education, Woodlands Avenue, Earley, Reading RG6 1HY. Telephone: Reading (0734) 883387.

COMPLETED FORMS TO BE RETURNED BY 7th MARCH, 1984. Berkshire County Council is an equal opportunity employer. (14084)

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Personal

IMMEDIATE ADVANCES £100. Write now to: Mr. J. G. Jones, Clwyd Area Health Authority, Deeside, Clwyd. Tel: Deeside 017631, Ext. 271. Closing date for receipt of applications 10th February, 1984. (14182)

CANTERBURY, CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Canterbury, Kent CT1 1QUPRINCIPAL LECTURER AND
HEAD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited for the above post to take effect from September 1984. Salary: £12,519-£15,744 p.a. The college has approximately 1000 students and offers BA, BEd and BSc degrees, PGCE, advanced diplomas and higher degrees in Education. For further details write to Mrs. Jean Long, Personal Assistant to the Principal, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to whom applications should be sent not later than 28th February. (14137)

CANTERBURY
Christ Church College of Higher Education
Required for the beginning of the Autumn term 1984.(1) Lecturer II/Senior Lecturer in
Biblical Studies

Candidates should possess a good honours degree and if possible a higher degree in Theology. The Lecturer appointed will be expected to share in Professional courses relating to the teaching of Religious Education in schools. Recent experience of teaching children within the primary and/or secondary age range will be an advantage.

(2) Lecturer II/Senior Lecturer in
Movement Studies with particular
reference to Dance

Applications are invited from candidates who have an ability to teach courses in Dance and Gymnastics or Swimming to degree level, and especially from candidates with teaching experience in primary schools.

The college has approximately 1,000 students and offers BA, BEd and BSc degrees, PGCE, advanced diplomas and higher degrees in Education.

Salary scale: Lecturer II/Senior Lecturer £7,215-£13,443 p.a.

For further details write to Mrs Jean Long, Personal Assistant to Principal, Christ Church College, Canterbury enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to whom applications should be sent not later than 2 March. (14079)

La Sainte Union
College of Higher
Education
The Avenue Southampton
School of Education and
TechnologyLECTURER II/
SENIOR LECTURER
IN DRAMA AND
COMMUNICATION
SKILLS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates for an appointment in the above post. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the development of drama and communication skills in the primary and secondary schools. The post will be based at La Sainte Union, Southampton. Informal telephone enquiries may be made to Mr J. G. Jones, Tel: Wrexham 559221.

Further details and application form available from the Director of Management Services, The North East Wales Institute, Deeside, Clwyd. Tel: Deeside 017631, Ext. 271. Closing date for receipt of applications 10th February, 1984. (14182)

Research
& StudentshipsCity of
Birmingham
Polytechnic
Faculty of Engineering and
Technology
Department of Mechanical
& Production Engineering
RESEARCH
ASSISTANT

Required to work on a 14/20 hour week on the application of dynamic simulation techniques to the design and control of mechanical systems. The project is being funded by the Science Research Council. Applicants should have a good knowledge of computer programming, particularly in the area of dynamic simulation. They should also have a good knowledge of mechanical systems and be able to work independently. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of the project and to the teaching of students. The post is for a period of 12 months, with the possibility of extension. The salary will be £5,188 per annum. For further details and an application form, to be returned by 15 February 1984, please contact the Personnel Office, City of Birmingham Polytechnic, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT. Tel: 01-275 3551. H3

UNIVERSITY OF
SALFORD
Computing Services
SectionRESEARCH
ASSISTANT

Required to work on the development of Decision Analysis Aids in Engineering. The work will involve the development of software to assist people making crucial decisions in large scale examinations such as 'O' level. Applicants should have a good knowledge of FORTRAN or Pascal and some knowledge of Decision or Design Theory would be an advantage. Work will involve the use of dedicated powerful work stations. The position is for two years and the initial salary will be up to £2,500 p.a. The post is funded by the Secondary Examination Council. Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from: The Registrar, University of Salford, Salford M6 6PU. Tel: 01-275 3551, Ext. 450. To whom completed applications should be sent by 28th February, 1984. (14084)

